

Brit.

6

L

Boil
6^l

Allies

ANCIENT BRITISH

ROMAN AND SAXON

ANTIQUITIES

WORCESTERSHIRE

BY JAMES ALLIEN, ESQ.

LONDON

PRINTED BY J. JOHNSON, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD, AND
BY G. G. & CO. ST. MARTIN'S LANE, PATERNOSTER ROW.

1801

Worcester

ON THE

ANCIENT BRITISH,

ROMAN, AND SAXON

ANTIQUITIES

MUSEUM
OF
BRITAIN
LONDON

WORCESTERSHIRE.

BY JABEZ ALLIES, ESQ.

LONDON:

SIMPKIN, MARSHALL, & CO., STATIONERS' HALL COURT;
AND R. GROOMBRIDGE, PANYER ALLEY, PATERNOSTER ROW:
AND
DEIGHTON, WORCESTER.

MDCCCXL.

OF THE

ANCIENT BRITISH

ROMAN AND SAXON

ANTIQUITIES



BY JAMES ALLEN, ESQ.

LONDON:

SMITH, WATKINS & CO., STATIONERS, HALL COURT;

AND W. GOSWOLD, LONDON, LONDON, LONDON.

AND

DEIGHTON, WORCESTER.

WORCESTER:

PRINTED BY DEIGHTON AND CO., JOURNAL OFFICE, HIGH STREET.

PREFACE.

My principal object in collecting the facts which are set forth in this work has been to show that the doubts which Dr. Nash and some other writers expressed, as to whether the Romans had stations to any extent in the interior of the county of Worcester, are void of foundation ; and in pursuing the subject I was led to discoveries which relate to a much earlier period in our history, and also to some of a rather later date.

Several of the facts which I have detailed were, between the year 1835 and the present time, laid by me, as they came to light, before the Worcestershire Natural History Society ; but being scattered about, like the sybil's verses, I have, at the request of several friends, collected them together in this little work, which I now respectfully offer to my indulgent readers, and hope that the same may be of use to some abler hand in writing a general history of this beautiful county.

JABEZ ALLIES.

CATHERINE VILLA, NEAR WORCESTER,

23RD JULY, 1840.

PREFACE

My principal object in collecting the facts which are set forth in this work has been to show that the doubts which Mr. Nash and some other writers expressed as to whether the Romans had attained to any extent in the interior of the country of Worcester, are void of foundation; and in pursuing the subject I was led to observations which relate to a much earlier period in our history, and also to some of a rather later date.

Several of the facts which I have detailed were between the year 1800 and the present time, and by me as they came to light, before the Worcestershire Natural History Society; but being scattered about like the sybil's verses I have, at the request of several friends, collected them together in this little work, which I now respectfully offer to my indulgent readers, and hope that the same may be of use to some other hand in writing a general history of this beautiful county.

JAMES ALLEN.

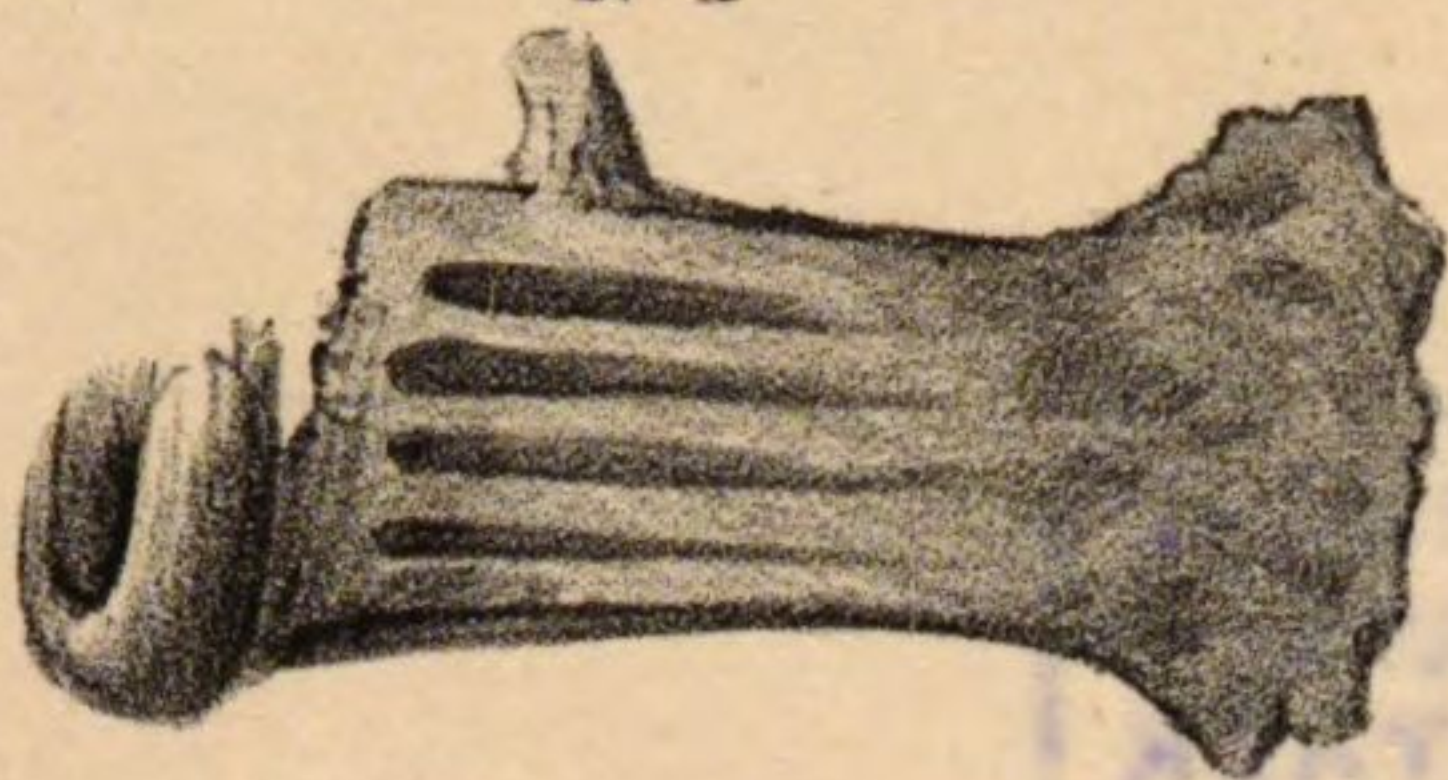
CATHERINE VILLA, NEAR WORCESTER.

28th July, 1840.

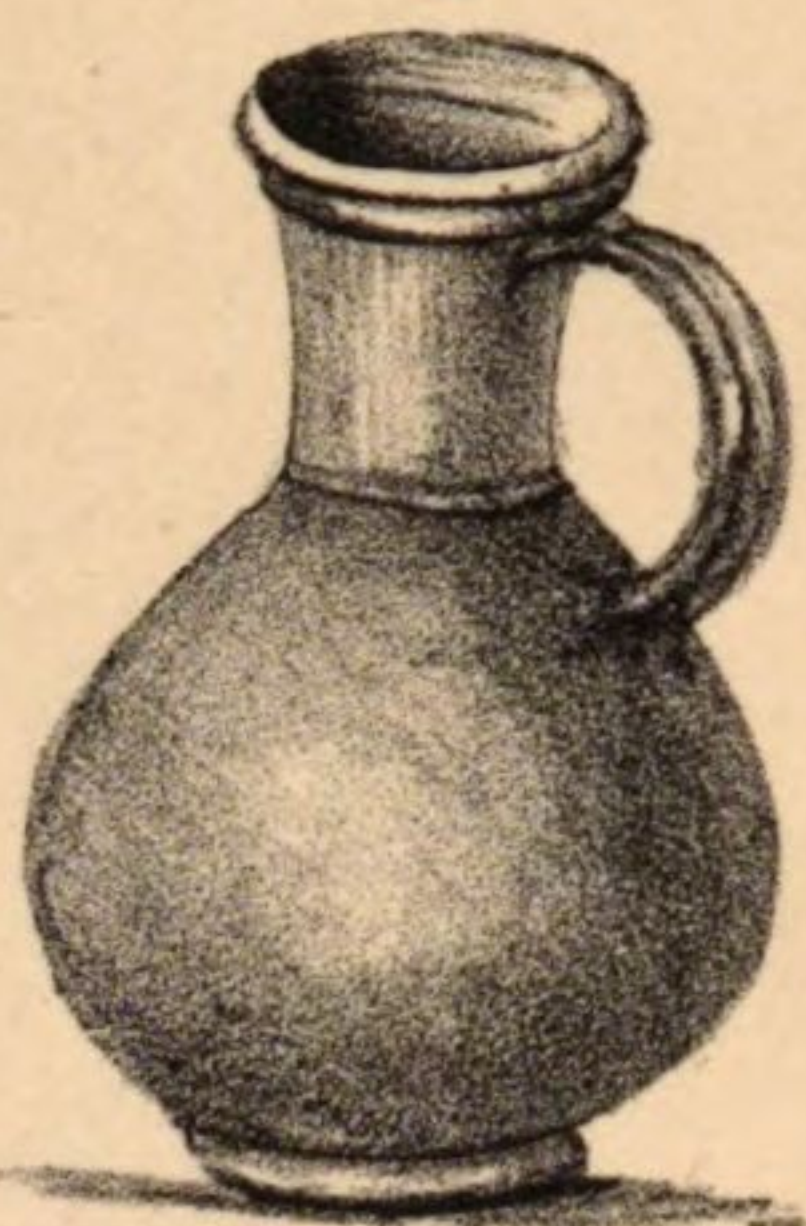


Plate II

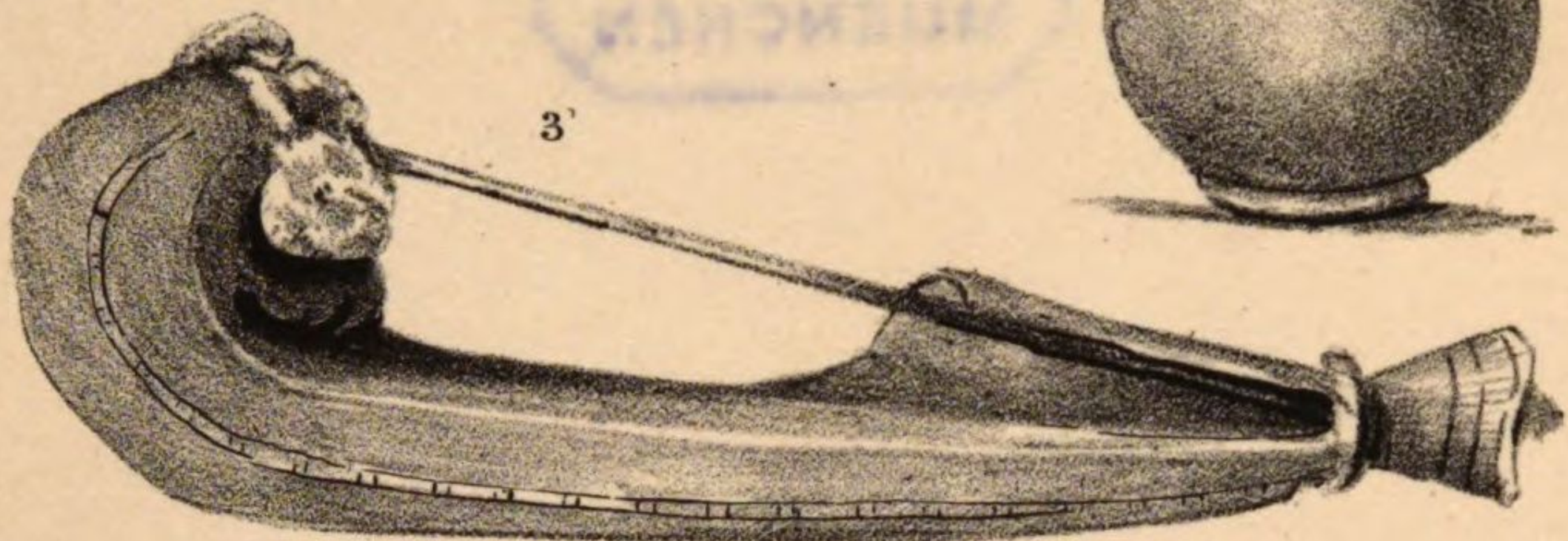
N° 1



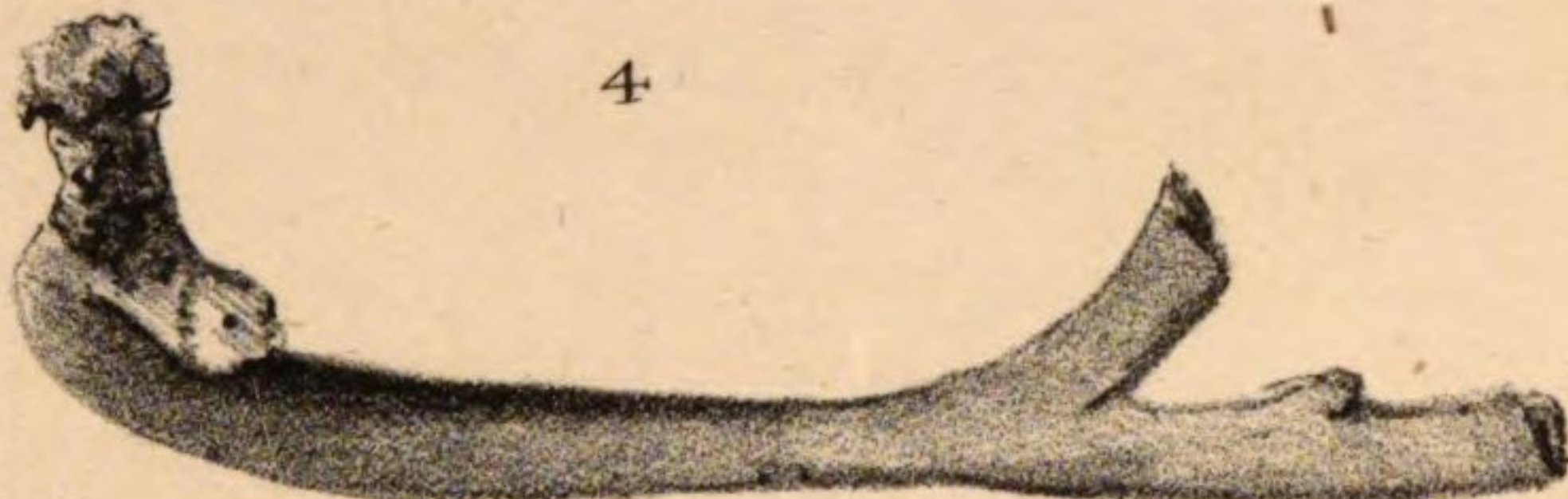
2



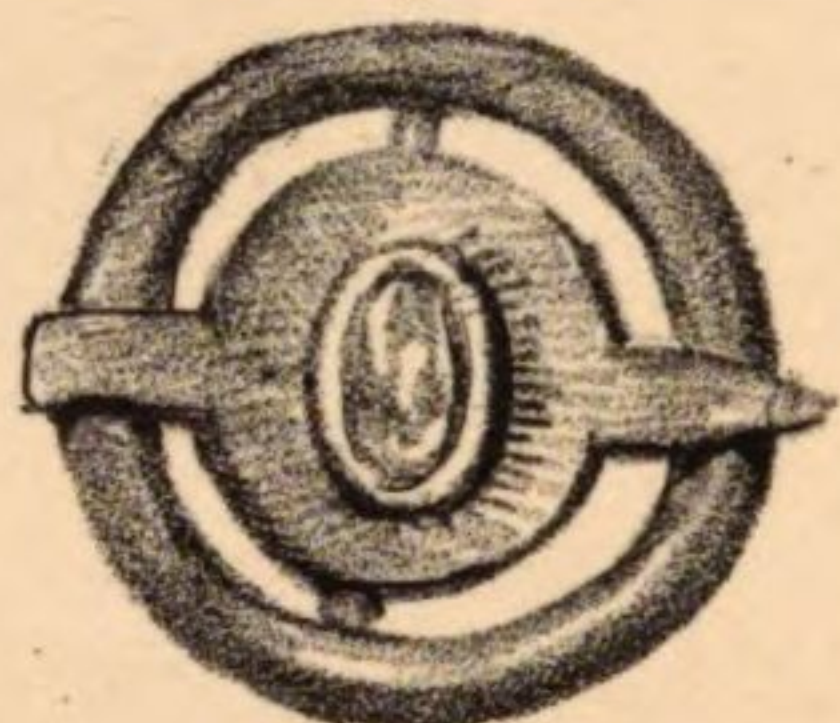
3



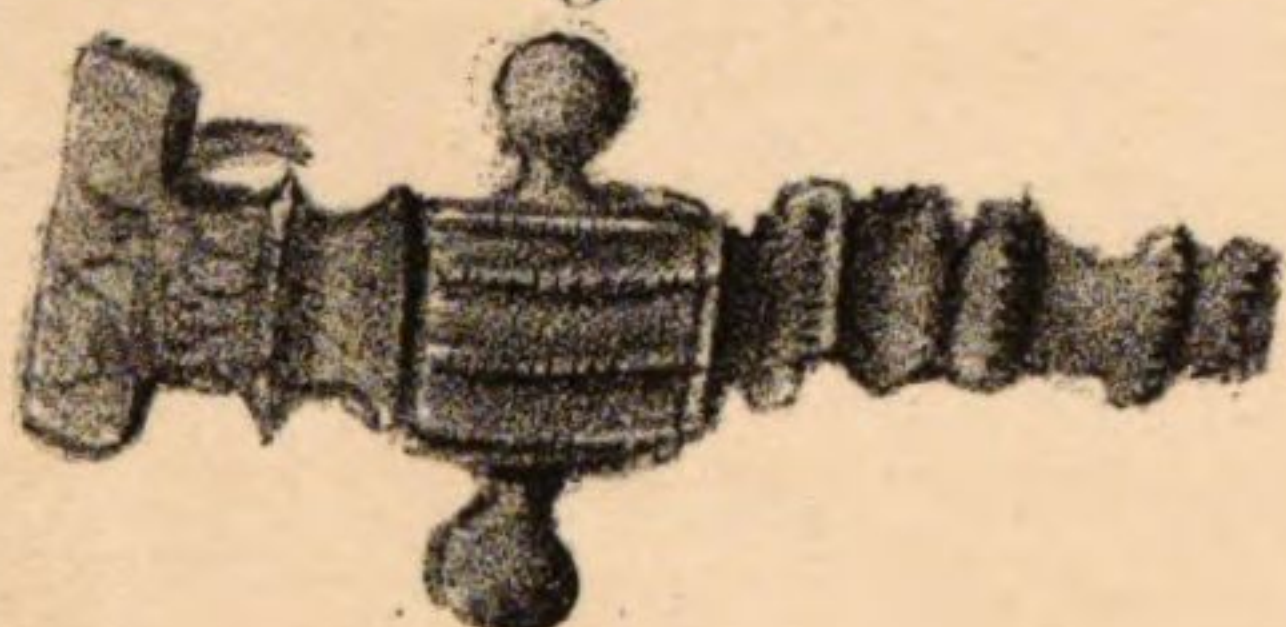
4



5



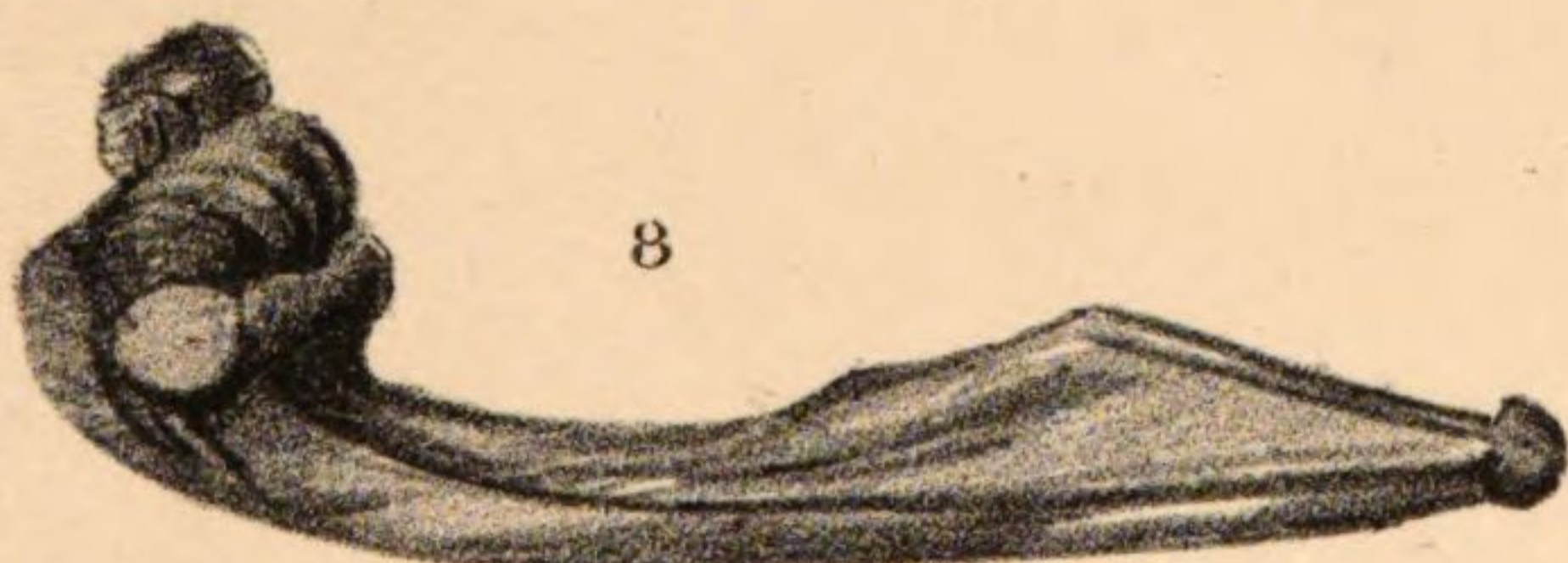
6



7



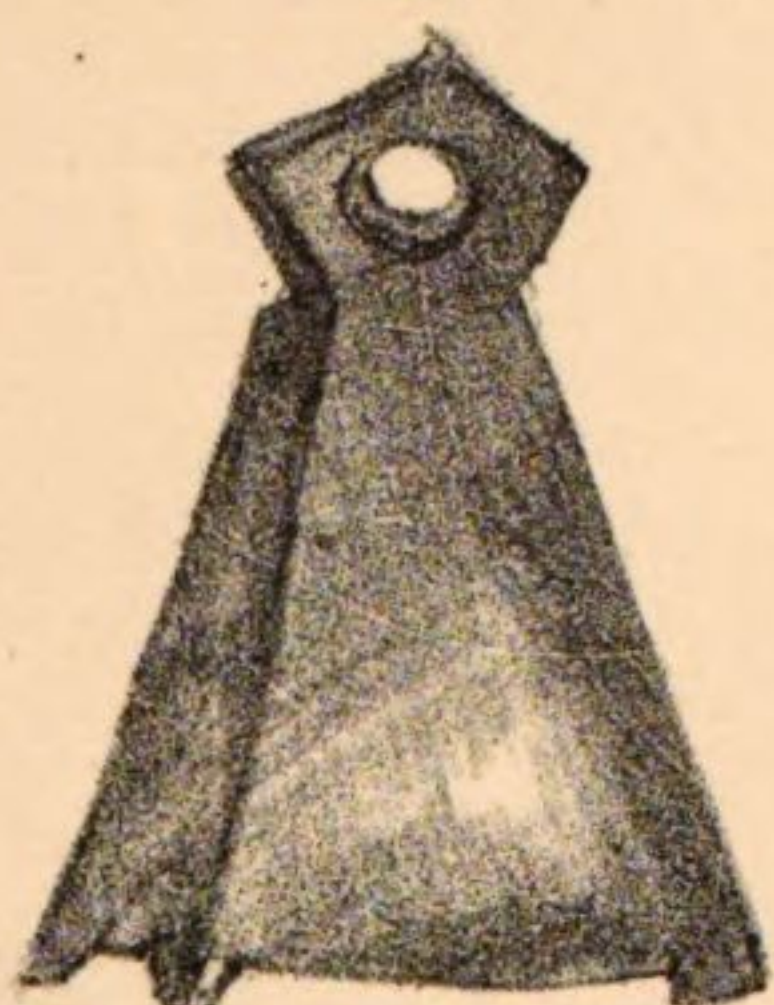
8



9



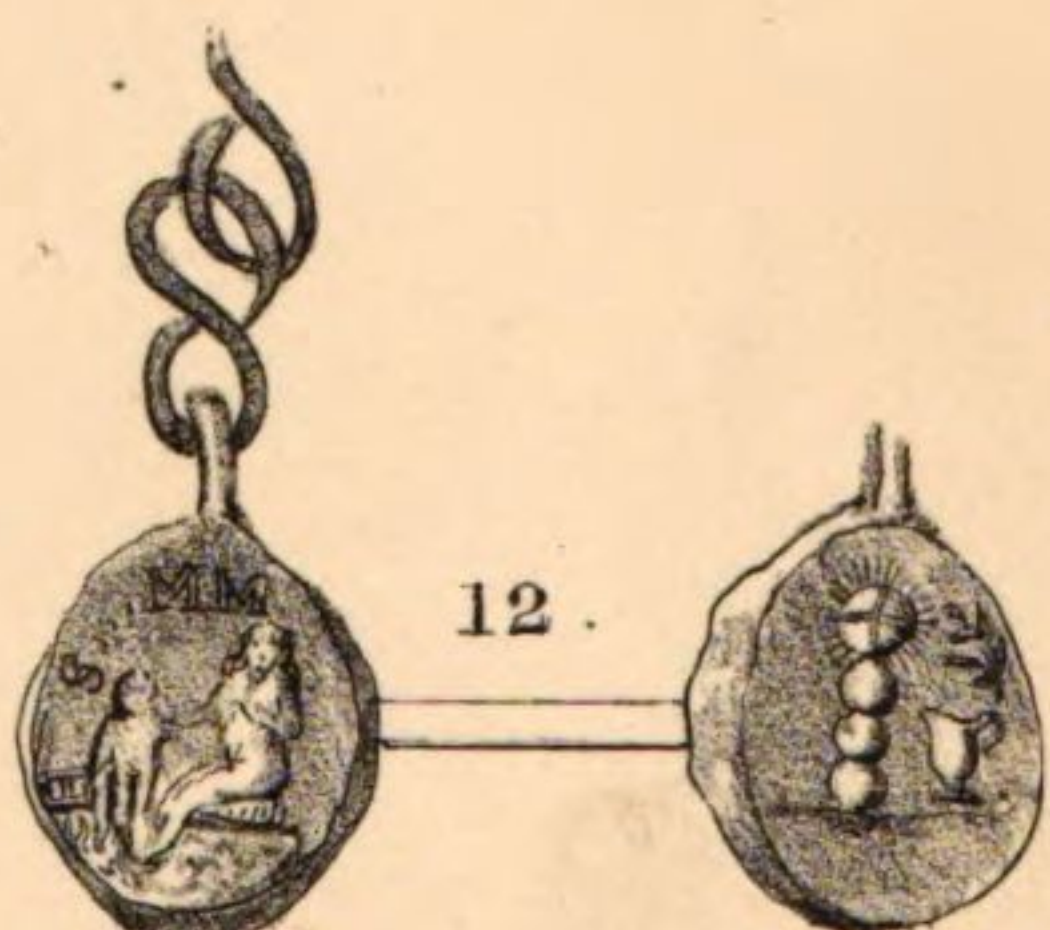
10



11



12



DESCRIPTION OF PLATE I.

The following Relics were found in the Castle Hill, Worcester.

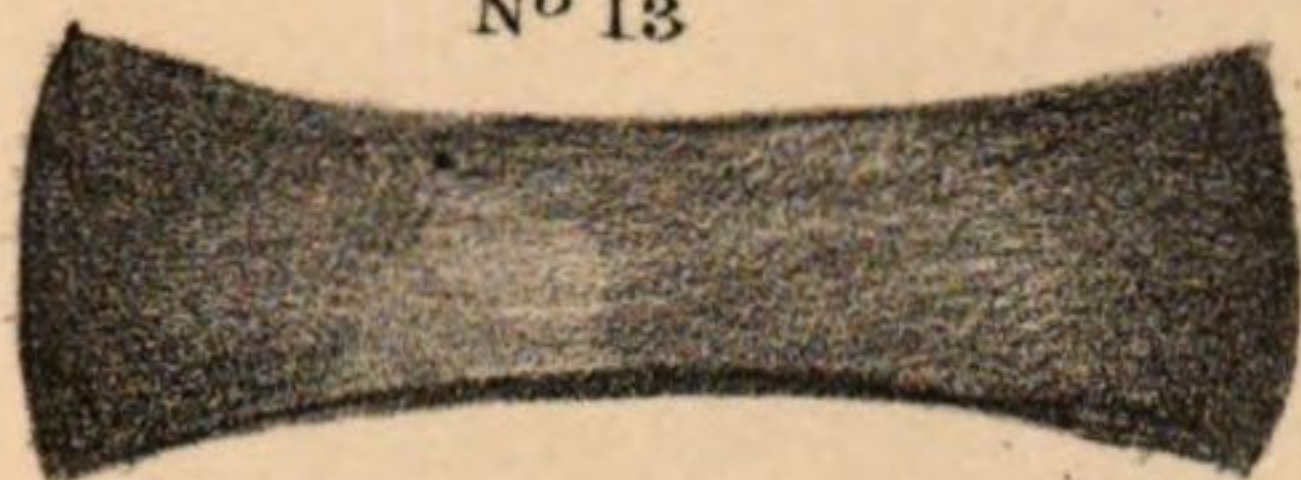
NO.		SEE PAGE
1	Celt, said to be Ancient British, being one of the earlier forms of brass celts	8
2	Roman urn or jug	8
3	} Roman fibulæ or brooches	{ 8 9
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10	} Roman bell and clapper	9
11		
12	Locket or medal, probably of the later Roman time.....	10

DESCRIPTION OF PLATE II.

NO.		SEE PAGE
13 } 14 }	Celt, Ancient British, found at Grimley	54
15	The like, found at Bevere Island	57
16	The like, found at Malvern Link	62
17 }	Fragment of a supposed Ancient British or Romanized British torque, found at Perdiswell.....	55
18 } 19 } 20 }	Cinerary urn and cups, found in the cists of the Roman burial-ground at Kempsey.....	19
21 } 22 }	Fragments of Roman fibulæ or brooches, from the same cists.....	18 19
23	Roman cinerary urn, which contained burnt human bones, found at Powick	22
24	Urn, found at Bredicot, which contained about 140 Roman copper coins	46
25 }	Saxon gold coin of Edward the Confessor, found upon taking down the old Saint Clement's Church, Worcester	14

Plate II

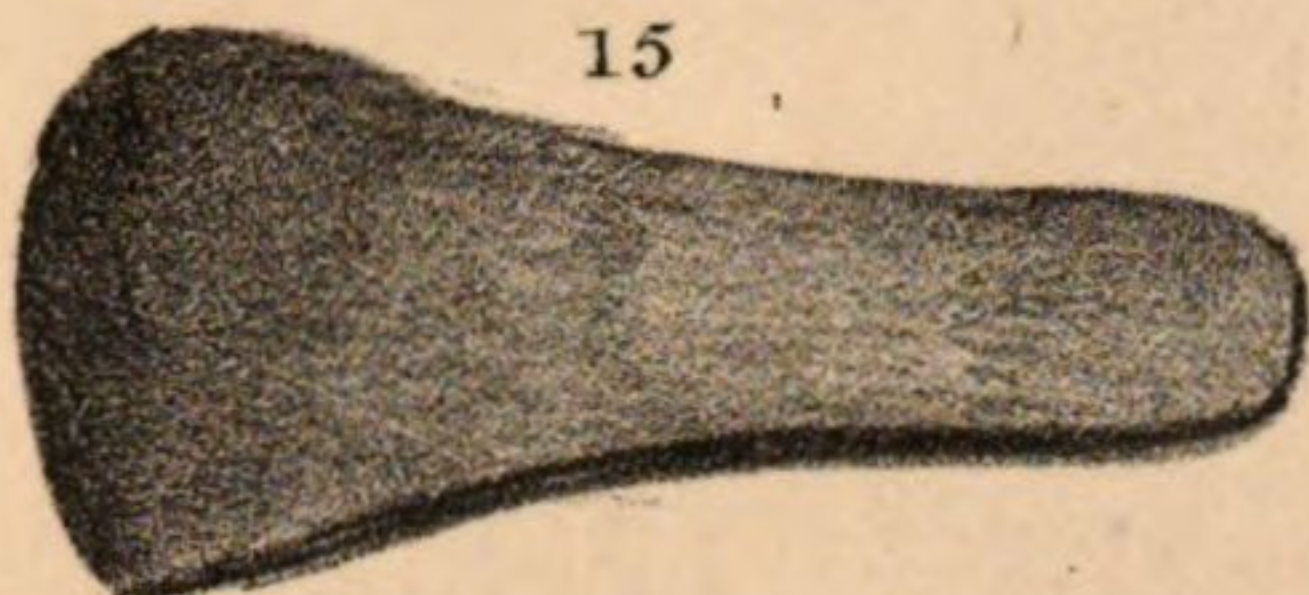
Nº 13



14



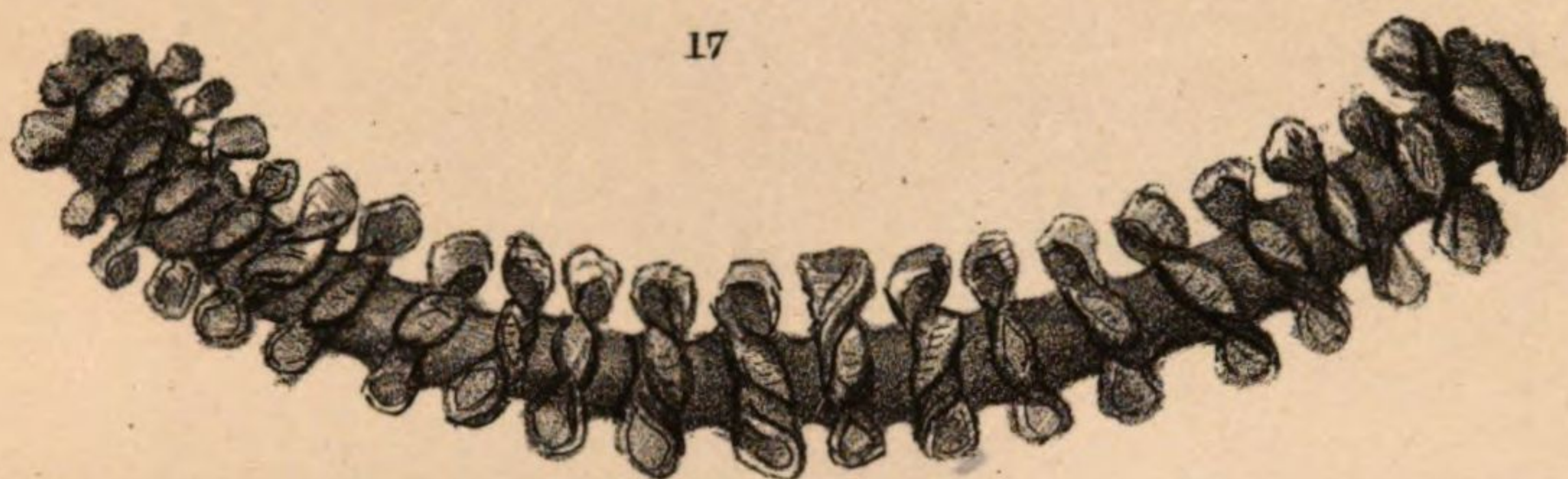
15



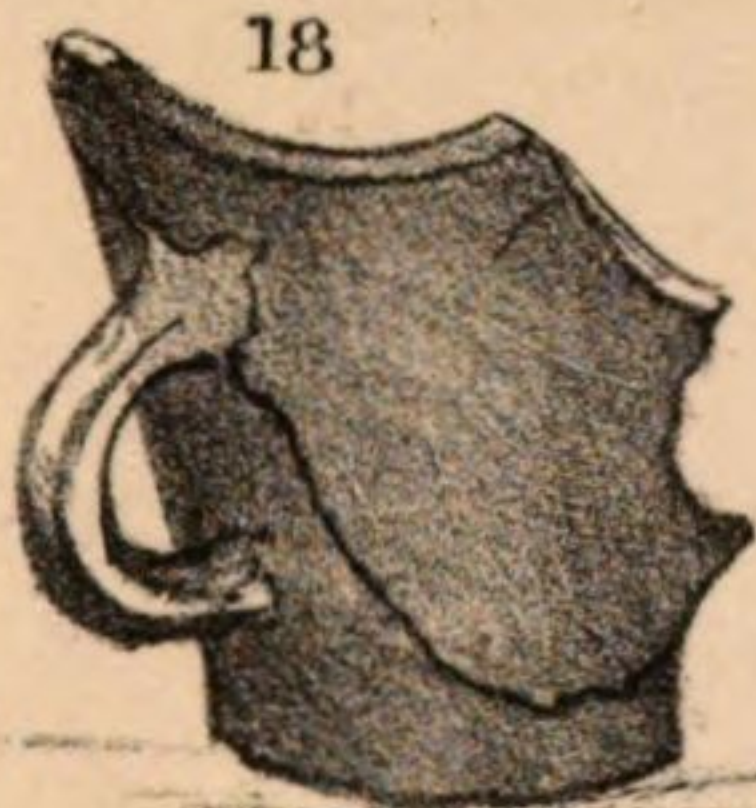
16



17



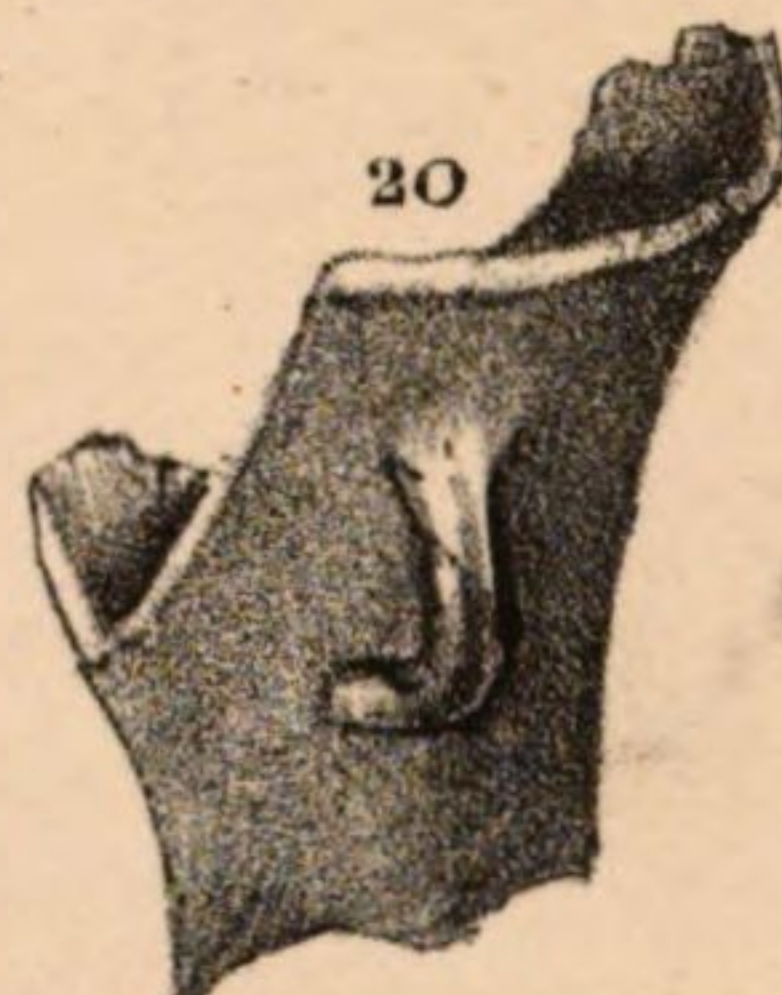
18



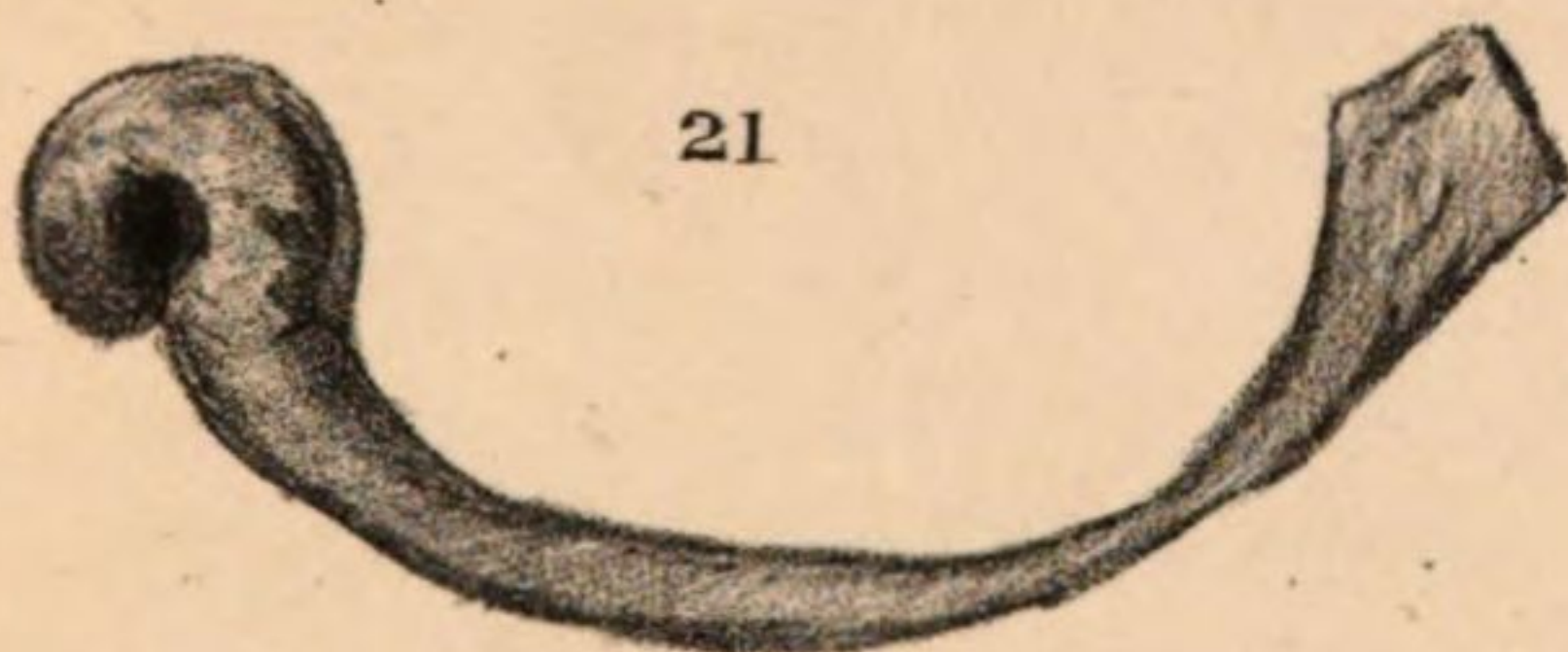
19



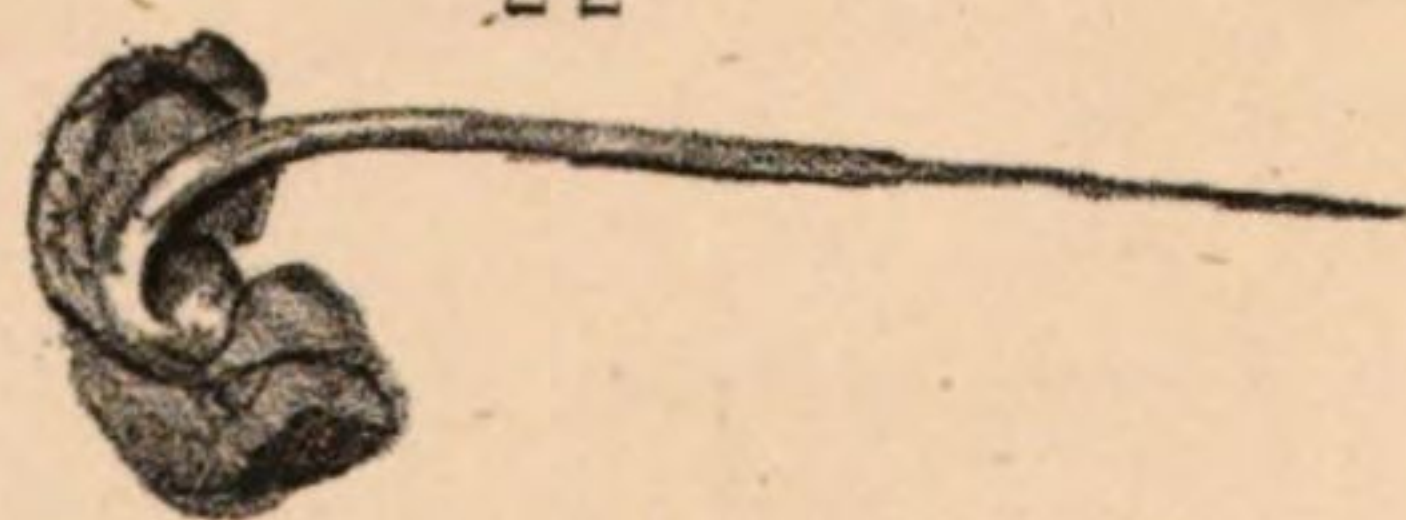
20



21



22



23



24



25



WORCESTER.

UPON excavations being made, in the year 1829, to lay the basement of the house in the centre of Britannia Square, in the borough of Worcester, the foundation of a circular tower or fort of sandstone was found, of the diameter of about thirty feet ; and in the rubbish, upwards of fifty Roman coins were discovered, some of which are of Constantius, others of Constantine the Great, Decentius, Claudius Gothicus, and Magnentius ; but the greater part are so decayed, that they cannot be deciphered. Harvey Berrow Tymbs, Esq., has presented these coins to the Museum of the Worcestershire Natural History Society. This tower or fort was most probably one of those which Tacitus states that the Roman Proprætor, Ostorius Scapula, in the reign of the Emperor Claudius the First, constructed on the Severn ; they were erected on the east bank, to check the Britons on the other side of the river. John Ross, a writer on antiquities, who

flourished in the reign of Edward the Fourth, has reported Constantius Cæsar as the founder of Worcester, on the credit of an old British chronicle he met with; and Andrew Yarranton, in his work, entitled “England’s Improvement by Sea and Land,” &c., (the first part of which was published in 1677, and the second in 1698,) states in the second part, page 162, as quoted by Dr. Nash,* *inter alia*, as follows:—“He says he found out a vast quantity of Roman cinders near the walls of the city of Worcester; and within one hundred yards of such walls there was dug up one of the hearths of the Roman foot blasts, it being then firm, and in order, and was seven foot deep in the earth; and by the side of the work there was found out a pot of Roman coine, to the quantity of a peck, some of which was presented to Sir Dugdale, and part thereof is in the King’s closet;—by all which circumstances it clearly appears that the Romans made iron in England, and as far up the river Severn as the city of Worcester, where as yet there are vast quantities remaining.”

Dr. Nash (in the absence of further evidence) strongly expressed his opinion that these were not Roman relics; but in the corrections and additions to the second volume of his History, page 97, he relaxed a little upon the point, and stated that “In June, 1797, an underground drain was made, the whole length of the Broad Street, Worcester, and about the middle of the street from the Cross, near the house of Mr. Morton, cabinet maker, not far from the Bell Inn, was found a bed of iron cinders, which extended up Mr. Morton’s yard, and probably on to the walls of the city, near which was a considerable iron foundery in the time of the Saxons, or perhaps, as some think, of the Romans. About two or three hundred yards from the city wall, up the river, is a place called Cinder Point, where a great quantity of the like scorix are found. The specimen I have is very rich in metal. The cinders at Mr. Morton’s and the Bell Inn were found to extend about forty yards in breadth; and at another place, near the Cross, opposite Mr. Wilson’s, about ten yards.”

* Vide Vol. II. of “Nash’s History of Worcestershire;” Appendix, page cviii.

I have several times examined the stratum of iron scorix and clinkers at Cinder Point, on the east bank of the Severn, in a place called Pitchcroft, and find that the bed is extensive, and that the clinkers are very rich in metal. I have no doubt that this is the place referred to by Yarranton. The stratum lies about six feet deep, beneath the alluvial soil, by the river side, and most probably was the rough and half-smelted ore thrown aside in the time of the Romans, they having, it is said, only foot blasts to smelt the ironstone.

The before-mentioned fort of Ostorius stood exactly opposite to and within about five hundred yards of Cinder Point, on a ridge of ground, just out of flood's-way, on the same side of the river, and would at all times guard the iron works. I have lately seen a similar bed of scorix and clinkers in the bank of a lane between English Bicknor Church and the river Wye, in Gloucestershire. This was pointed out to me by the Rev. Edward Feild, Rector of that parish; and also a mound in an adjacent pasture, from whence a great quantity of clinkers were a few years back dug out, and taken to the iron works at the Forest of Dean, to be melted up again with iron ore, as such clinkers (like those at Cinder Point) are very rich in metal, and were considered greatly to improve the general mass; but it is said that on account of a new mode in smelting, they are not now used. These ancient works in Bicknor appear to have been flanked, overlooked, and defended by a tower or fort, which stood at the top of the rising ground by the churchyard, and the site of which is still very visible. I was also informed by Sir Samuel Rush Meyrick that the like scorix and clinkers are to be seen in the grounds adjacent to Goodrich Court.

Mr. Spriggs, of this city, has shewn me a coin of Nero, which was dug up in his presence, in Broad Street, near the top of the street called Doldy, when the drain, referred to by Dr. Nash, was made there in 1797. This coin was struck in commemoration of the closing of the temple of Janus, in Nero's reign, which was the sixth time. On the obverse it has the por-

trait of the Emperor, with the inscription, NERO CLAVD. CAESAR AVG. GER. P.M. TR. P. IMP. P.P. ; and the reverse contains the temple of Janus, and the inscription, PACE P.R. TERRA MARIQVE PARTA IANVM CLVSIT. S.C. This coin is very interesting, as it shews that Tacitus was wrong in stating that the temple of Janus was not shut after the time of Augustus till the reign of Vespasian.* Paten has set forth a similar coin in page 113 of his work on Roman Coins, and although he was satisfied that the temple was shut by Nero, as the coin indicates, yet he considered that the then state of the world did not justify it, and therefore that Tacitus and Orosius did not notice the fact.

I have coins of Probus, Gratian, and Carausius, which were found a few years back in an excavated mass of soil upon which some old tenements stood in Doldy. In the "Stranger's Guide to Worcester," published in 1828, by Ambrose Florence,† the above ancient part of the town is noticed in page 13, as follows:—"In the corporation book called "Liber Legum," made in the reign of Henry VII., it is ordered that all 'Walshe catell' coming to be sold be brought to Dolday;" and in page 11, he observes that "General Roy, in his Military Antiquities of the Romans in Britain, says 'If, however, Worcester was really a Roman town, which is no way improbable, it seems to be that which Richard, in his Chorography, assigns to the Dobuni, under the name of Branogena; but which, in his map, he calls Brangonum. This last is evidently the same with the name Wrangon, given to Worcester by the Welsh; whence the Saxons changed it to Wrangon-ceaster; and thence by corruption came its present name.'" And, in page 12, he says "Ninnius, an ancient British writer, gives a catalogue of the cities of Britain, the fourteenth of which is Cair Guorangon, which is almost universally allowed by antiquaries to be our city; and, indeed, it is so called in the ancient British language at the present day."

* Vide "Universal History," Vol. -XIV., page 3 and 4 thereon,

† This, it is said, is not the author's real name,

Upon the demolition of the old Saint Clement's Church in this city, Roman coins were found in the rubbish on digging up part of the ancient city wall which stood on the river side of that church; and one of Domitian was discovered in the excavations for the new houses at Lark Hill Crescent, near Perry Wood;* one of Valerian, an *urbs Roma*, and a silver one, I think of Septimus Severus, upon digging the foundations of Dr. James Nash's house in the High Street; and one of Maximian in the excavations for the new Saint Michael's Church, in College Street. They have also from time to time been found at the White Ladies, and at various other parts in and about the city.

Camden, in his "*Britannia*," Vol. II., page 352, edition 1790, says "Worcester was probably founded by the Romans when they built cities, at proper intervals, on the east side of the Severn to check the Britons on the other side of the river. It formerly boasted Roman walls. It has now a tolerably strong wall."

In Britton's "*History and Antiquities of Worcester Cathedral*," published in 1835, it is stated, in page 4, that "Dr. Stukeley, who appears to have visited the city and several other places in this part of England, in 1721, and afterwards published an account of his antiquarian researches in his "*Itinerarium Curiosum*," says, no doubt but this was a Roman city, yet we could find no remains but a place in it called Sudbury, which seems to retain in its name some memorial of that sort."† To this Mr. Britton added, "This place is now called Sidbury—evidently a corruption of Southbury or borough. Since Camden, Stukeley, and Green wrote their respective works, a vast mound of earth—the keep of the ancient Norman castle, on the south side of the Cathedral, has been entirely taken away, and some Roman antiquities were found, in 1833, at or near its base, viz., an urn or jug of red earth, with a handle; coins of Vespasian, Caligula,‡

* Vide "*Ambrose Florence*," page 130.

† Bishop Lyttleton was also of that opinion.

‡ Not Caligula but Augustus.

Nero, Tiberius, Adrian Antoninus Pius, &c. ; and in a field near Upper Deal was discovered another Roman urn, containing twenty copper coins of Carausius." "The real extent of the ancient castle cannot now be ascertained ; but the lofty mound called the keep, with its ditches, &c., occupied an area of between three and four acres. The apex of the keep mound measured more than eighty feet above the high-water mark of the Severn, which flowed close to its western base."

The above discoveries at the Castle Hill were also noticed in the "Gentleman's Magazine," Vol. I., No. 1, new series for January 1st, 1834 ; and, in addition, it is therein stated that in about the same level as the coins therein mentioned, "were discovered a well, curiously quoined with stone, and remains of buildings, which plainly shew that the spot was occupied before its artificial elevation for the purpose of forming the donjon keep of Worcester Castle during the middle ages."

This hill was composed of sand and gravel, with sandstone foundations as outworks, and Mr. Eaton, who purchased it, and had it removed, has from time to time, as the gravel has been taken away, obtained a great many more Roman coins and other relics out of strata of blackish earth, which lay in places both under and also in the hill, but principally under it. I have seen these coins and relics, and they clearly shew either that the elevation in question was thrown up by the later Romans (with the mass which was excavated upon making a fosse which ran from the spot in question to near where Edgar's Tower now stands,) upon an old Roman locality, or by the Saxons, Danes, or Normans, and that the black stratum thereunder, and also interspersed therein, and which contained the coins, was the ancient surface of the ground, which had been previously occupied by the Romans, and was afterwards thrown upon, or thrown up, as before mentioned. The hill and its ramparts and fosse are set forth in a map of the city, as it stood at the time of the great battle, in 1651.

The Roman coins collected by Mr. Eaton at this locality amount to between eighty and ninety in number, and he still continues occasionally to obtain them there. The following is a list of those already made out :—

Augustus	1	in number.	
Tiberius	1	—	
Nero	1	—	A very fine coin.
Claudius I.	4	—	Three of them are good.
Vespasian	2	—	One rather fine.
Titus	1	—	Rather good.
Hadrian	1	—	
Antoninus Pius ...	1	—	
Faustina I.	1	—	A beautiful coin.
Diva Faustina	1	—	
Marcus Antoninus	1	—	Obverse good.
Julia Mamaea	1	—	The like.
Gordian III.	1	—	
Victorinus.....	3	—	
Claudius II.....	1	—	
Aurelian	1	—	
Carausius	4	—	Obverse of two rather good.
Constantine	1	—	Reverse rather fine.
Urbs Roma	1	—	
Valens	1	—	

Also a silver coin with two portraits, (one partly behind the other,) which I think is a Greek colonial one ; half a Saxon silver penny of Aethelred II. ; and portions of a silver coin of Canute ; three old coins, probably early French or Norman, containing Saxon letters, and ornamented with *fleur de lis* ; but I cannot make out the inscriptions on them. Half a silver coin of one of the Henry's ; a silver coin of one of the Richard's, another of one of the Edward's, and another of Charles the First ; several copper Irish and other farthings of the latter monarch, and Irish copper coins of James the Second ; also coins of several other English monarchs ; a silver mite, with a rose thereon ; various tradesmen's and abbey copper tokens ; also Scottish, German, and Dutch copper coins, which no doubt were brought here in the civil wars in Charles's time. These latter coins are very frequently found in and about the city.

But to return to the Roman relics. The rest of the Roman coins found in the hill are either so decayed or worn that I cannot decipher them; but the principal part have the iron crown. The coins of Carausius, Constantine, and Valens, being found in the hill, show that it could not have been thrown up before the time of the later Romans; perhaps it was made partly by Constantius and Constantine, and partly afterwards to strengthen the south side of the city, and to communicate with the Kempsey camp, where, as I shall presently shew, a memorial of Constantine has been found

The other interesting relics which Mr. Eaton collected at the hill he has kindly allowed me to make drawings of. The principal part of them are set forth in Plate I., and all of their natural size except the celt, urn, and bell.

No. 1.—Brass celt, most probably ancient British, found in black soil within the base of the hill. It is four inches long, and one and two-eighths wide, and one inch thick in the centre. It has four parallel indents on each side. The greatest part of the loop is broken off, and part of the head. There are drawings of several celts set forth in the first volume of Camden, page ccvi., two or three resembling the one in question in many respects, except that they have not any of the indents.

No. 2.—Roman urn or jug. It is nine inches and a half high, twenty-four inches in circumference round the middle, ten inches and a half round the foot, eight inches round the small of the neck, and eleven inches and a half round the mouth. It is in the finest state of preservation, and was found about sixteen or eighteen feet deep in the hill, from the side horizontally towards the centre, and about a third of the way up it. There are several nearly resembling it in Montfaucon's work on Grecian and Roman Antiquities, Vol. III., part first.

No. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9.—Roman brass fibulæ or brooches.* Six are of the bow shape, but of different patterns, and the other is circular. The acus is entire to that of No. 3.

* Vide general observations relative to fibulæ under the head Kempsey.

Fragments of the acus of each of the others are also in the collection. The fibula, No. 3, is very large, and weighs nearly an ounce and a half. It looks something like a Roman galley, and has a single moulding round the edge, a double one along the front (which is the lower side of the drawing), and a dotted one along the middle. The front view is given of the fibula, No. 6, with the fragment of the acus appearing behind. There are several patterns of fibulæ set forth in Montfaucon's work, Vol. III., Part I., page 46, &c., but none exactly like those in question. The whole of them were found in the black stratum under the hill, but the largest one was near the outside of it.

No. 10.—An oblong square cast Roman brass bell, which had a clapper appended when found, but it fell off. The two sides of the bell are one inch and two-eighths wide at the top, and two inches and three-eighths at the bottom, and the two ends are six-eighths of an inch wide at the top, and one inch and seven-eighths at the bottom. It stands upon four feet, and the hole through the handle is five-eighths of an inch in diameter.

No. 11.—The brass clapper.

There is another bell exactly like the above mentioned, except that it is a little smaller and less worn. These bells Mr. Eaton says were found in the black stratum under the hill.

In Montfaucon's work, Vol. III., Part I., page 106, there are engravings of Grecian and Roman bells of several shapes set forth, and one exactly corresponds with those in question. In his account of them, he says the Greeks and Romans had sometimes small bells at their doors; that these bells were often used for other purposes; that they were, for instance, hung to the necks of horses, oxen, and sheep; that they had them, according to Lucien, in houses to call them up in the morning; that those persons also who went round the fortifications of the towns carried them; and that they were put at the doors of temples.

No. 12.—A brass locket or medal.* It appears to contain on the obverse, the Infant Jesus and the Virgin Mary; she is in a sitting posture, and he is standing at her right side, with his right hand pointing to something like a flaming altar. He is surrounded by the letters B . S . . . M M. On the reverse there is a cross within a circle, like those on the Saxon coins, surrounded with glory, and elevated on a Roman ensign. On the left side of the cross there is a cup or chalice, with a handle—perhaps an emblem of the sacramental cup, and over it a branch, I presume, of olive; and there was evidently something on the right side of the cross, but it is obliterated. The first letter is, I think, compounded of I and E. The reading perhaps is IEsus Salvator Maria Mater. As this locket contains a Roman ensign, it is perhaps of the later Roman time; but if not, it must be of a date subsequent to the Saxon era, as the letters are not Saxon.

The following I am not able to assign any date to:—An old brass key, which has two small niches in the ward, and a pipe hole. A brass pin, an inch and a half long, and the eighth of an inch thick, with a whitish bead head, rather decayed; diamond-shaped indents on the upper half of the pin, and a double point. A large bead of common darkish glass, two inches and five-eighths round, and the hole three-eighths of an inch in diameter. A black touchstone, with a ring. A brass seal, with a lion rampant engraved on the metal. Brass tweezers. Fragments of a plain amber ring. A brass medal, with the story of Cephalus and Procris on it, and old spades, &c. The latter, and other relics which appear to be the most modern, Mr. Eaton says were found at or near the top of the hill.

This elevation evidently underwent considerable alterations from time to time, according to the modes of warfare of the different ages; and the sandstone foundations which were discovered in or near the base no doubt were of various periods.

* For convenience sake I have called the different articles brass, but I rather think they are a mixture of brass and copper.

Some part of the top of the hill may have been made out of the excavated mass of sand and gravel, upon building the crypt of the Cathedral, or some other ecclesiastical edifice; and I am rather strengthened in this conjecture by Mr. Eaton having a diamond-shaped piece of ruby-coloured glass, which was found in the hill.

As the urn or jug, No. 2, was discovered about a third of the way up the hill, and about sixteen or eighteen feet deep in it from the side horizontally towards the centre, this goes to prove that part of the mound in question was made by the later Romans, unless we can believe that the urn or jug was thrown up by the Saxons, Danes, or Normans, along with the original surface, in the manner before suggested.

Before leaving this locality I must notice that the workmen found several genera of recent species of sea shells in the native gravel bed under the hill, which are in Mr. Eaton's possession, namely, *Turritella*, *Murex Erinaceus*, *Buccinum Macula*, and *Purpura Lapillus*. These correspond with some of the several genera of recent species of marine shells which I procured, through the workmen, from the bottom of the gravel beds at Kempsey, Powick, and Bromwich Hill, near this city, all which latter shells R. I. Murchison, Esq., has noticed in his work on the Silurian System,* in proof that an ancient arm of the sea formerly divided England from Wales. Since that work was published I have obtained *Turritella* and *Cardium* from Bromwich Hill; *Purpura Lapillus* and *Turbo Littoreus* from Kempsey; and *Turritella* from the gravel bed at Northwick; which last place lies up the Severn, within about a mile of this city.

Dr. Nash, in page cvii. of the appendix to his second volume, says: "To speak my mind freely, I do not take Worcestershire to be any part of the Cornavii, but of the Dobuni; nor do I think the city of Worcester had a being in the Roman times, for there are no footsteps of any Roman ways leading to this city, nor are there any coins or antiquities found in any quantity. All betwixt the Avon and the Severn

* Vide Vol. I., pages 532, 533, 534, and 554.

was formerly thick and wild woodland. The Arden of Warwickshire joined to that of Feckenham, in this county, which, with the forest of Ombersley, included all the north part of the county between the Stour and Severn, quite down to Worcester; and the forest of Horewell, southward, extended from Sudbury gate to within a mile of Tewkesbury." He also added: "Some have imagined that the Romans would not neglect so fine and navigable a river as the Severn, but would certainly follow the course of it from Gloucester; but at that time the Severn was not navigable about Worcester, it being used chiefly for fishing, there being, long after the time of the Romans, three weirs within two miles of Worcester, Bevere, Barbone, and Timberdine."

Now, in answer to this, it has already appeared, and will in the subsequent parts of this work be further shewn, that a great numbers of Roman coins and other relics have been discovered in and near Worcester since the Doctor wrote his History; and at Kempsey, not far from this city, in the very line between it and Tewkesbury, the site of a Roman camp and burial-ground have been discovered; and a little further on, at Severn Stoke and Ripple, the relics of a Roman road have been found; and at the latter place the site also of a Roman pottery ground. Likewise in the very parish of Ombersley the site of a Roman camp and pottery works have been brought to light; and within three miles of Worcester, on the north-west side of it, there is a place called Oldbury, situated in the parish of St. John, near Broadheath and Crowneast (vulgarly called Crowsnest). This place has not been noticed by Dr. Nash; but in his account of the parish of Hales-Owen, he states that the name of the place there called Oldbury denotes that there was a Roman camp or station in that locality.

Upon my lately visiting Oldbury,* near this city, I find it to be a fine open upland situation, just such a one as the Romans would have selected; for it commands a full view

* There is a place called Oldbury Gardens at Tewkesbury, where Roman coins are frequently dug up; *vide* Bennett's History of that place, page 17.

from the highest part, called Oldbury Hill, of Worcester, and of Tutnall, Elbury, and Cruckbarrow Hills, which flank the city on the north-east, east, and south-east, and of Bredon Hill, which lies on the south-east, and of the Malvern, Old Storage, Ankerdine, Berrow, Woodbury, and Abberley Hills, on the south-west, west, and north-west; and it appears to be the highest ground in that part between the above ranges.

From what has been said, it is clear that this county was not so much covered with wood in the time of the Romans as Dr. Nash imagined; and the wears referred to by him upon the Severn may have been made in later times, as the Cinder Point iron works tend to prove that the navigation of the river was free during the time of the Roman domination.

Under all the circumstances, the historical evidence which I have cited in favour of the Romanity of Worcester, is completely borne out by the recent discoveries which are herein set forth; but whether there was a town upon or near the spot prior to the time of the Romans is still a question: I should think however that there was, not only from the finding of celts, but from the Amonian names of most of the hills in the vicinity.*

The finding of Roman coins in any particular locality is certainly not of itself sufficient evidence of such place having been a Roman station; but when they are discovered so numerous mixed up with such a foundation as that of the old tower or fort in Britannia Square, and with the Cinder Point iron works, and with such various Roman relics as have been found in the Castle Hill, the evidence it must be admitted amounts to an absolute demonstration upon the subject,—the more especially when it is considered that the above mentioned fort was built exactly opposite to, and completely guarded the Cinder Point iron works, and also the north side of the town; and an ancient camp on Elbury Hill, completely flanked and guarded the east side of the town, and Cruckbarrow Hill the south side, and the river Severn the west side of it.

Before leaving the city, I must advert to the finding of a

* See the subsequent account of the "Hills."

most interesting and unique Saxon gold coin. The particulars are these:—In the year 1837, having heard that Thomas Henry Spurrier, Esq., of Edgbaston, near Birmingham, had the coin in question in his collection, I called upon him, when he showed it to me, and said that he bought it of Mr. Allport, of Bull Street, in that town, watchmaker, for 10*l.*, who said he purchased it of a Mr. Manning, of Birmingham, for 13*s.* 2*d.*, who said he bought it of a Mr. Ball, of Worcester, for 10*s.*, who represented that it was found in the rubbish upon taking down the old St. Clement's Church, in Worcester. Wishing therefore to know more particulars as to the finding of it, Mr. Spurrier and myself called upon Mr. Allport and Mr. Manning, who repeated the above statement; and we afterwards went to Mr. Andrew Ball, coal dealer, of Severn Stoke, on the 26th of October of that year, and showed the coin to him and his wife Elizabeth, when he declared that he was at St. Clement's Church when it was being taken down, and whilst he was there one of the workmen discovered the coin in question amongst the ruins, which he (Mr. Ball) purchased of the workman for 5*s.*, and when he got home to his then residence in Worcester, he gave it to his wife to take care of; but afterwards (namely, about four years previously to our interview) sold it to Mr. Manning, of Birmingham, for 10*s.* Mrs. Ball also declared that the above mentioned coin was the one which her husband gave her to take care of, and that she cleaned it when brought to her, and noticed it particularly, and should at any time know it from a thousand others.

This coin has been examined by some of the first numismatists in the kingdom, who have declared it to be a genuine one. It is said to be the only Saxon gold coin which has been found. It is in a high state of preservation, and weighs fifty-four grains and a quarter. On the obverse there is a quarter side-face portrait of the king, with a sceptre, and the inscription, **EDPERD REX**, in Saxon characters. On the reverse there is the name of the person by whom, and the place where it was minted, as follows, **LYFINC ON PÆRINC**, which

some say means Lyfinc in Warwick, and others Lyfinc in Worcester. Vide an engraving of the coin in Plate II., No. 25.

Dr. Nash, in his History, Vol. II., Appendix, page cxxviii., speaking of St. Clement's Church, says—"This church was built by the Saxons after they had fortified the city against the incursions of the Britons. The parish to which it belongs lies on the other side of the river Severn; and there is a monkish tradition that it was begun to be built on that side of the river where the parish lies, but that angels by night took away the stones to the place where it now stands; but the true reason why it was there built was for its security, that whatever fate their houses might meet with, their church might be safe from the devastations of their enemies. It has at the west end of it the remains of a bulwark, and a gate by it, which openeth upon Severn, above the bridge, called Saint Clement's Gate."

I give the above extract because it strongly bears upon the subject. Upon enquiry I find that this ancient church was taken down about fifteen years ago, and rebuilt on the other side of the river. Some portions of the old walls still remain, containing circular arches: these M. H. Bloxam, Esq., of Rugby, lately saw, and stated that they are early Norman. It appears from his work on Gothic Ecclesiastical Architecture, published in 1838, that there are very few specimens of Saxon buildings remaining in the kingdom, and that it is a common mistake to call all erections Saxon which contain circular arches. Perhaps therefore the whole of this old church was Norman; but a Saxon one most probably originally stood there. Some writers state that the tower of this church, which was united to the city wall, was beaten down by the Cromwellites. In a copperplate of a fine view of the city, engraved in 1732, for Buck's Views, the then bridge is represented as abutting close upon the old St. Clement's Church; and in an old map,* entitled "An exact Ground Plot of the City of Worcester, as it stood fortified 3rd September, 1651,"

* This map was, I think, engraved from the old one in the little work called "Boscobel."

the bridge and the city wall close to the original tower of the church, and the bulwark referred to by Dr. Nash, are all represented, and also the great battle, in the back ground, all the way from Perry Wood and the Fort Royal to Sudbury Gate, and Charles is figured alone on horseback within the city, escaping at full gallop along Sudbury (now called Sidbury) Street.

But to return to the coin. In the course of the year 1837 several papers appeared in the *Numismatic Quarterly Journal* and *Gentleman's Magazine* respecting it. The principal question appears to have been whether it really was struck for circulation, or as a kind of medal or curiosity. The absence of any other Saxon gold coin appears to favour the opinion that upon a mintage of silver this gold piece was also struck. Some persons at first were disposed to consider it as a forgery, but I rather think that such idea has been entirely abandoned.

Another point has arisen as to where this coin was minted; and the question is, whether *Pœrinc*, or *Vœrinc*, or *Wœrinc*, means Warwick or Worcester. Green, in his *History of the City*, and Nash, in his *History of the County of Worcester*, have given an engraving in the former work, No. 10, and in the latter, No. 4, of a coin of this monarch, in many respects like the one in question, with the word *Pœrinc* upon it, (but with a different mint master's name,) amongst those Anglo-Saxon and English coins which they say were minted at Worcester; and it has been contended that this word is the first two syllables of the Saxon name of this city, as it has been given in Vol. I. of Camden's *Britannia*, page clxxiii., in explanation of coin, No. 29, in plate 2 of Saxon coins in that work. The last mentioned coin is one of Canute, and contains the word *VERIN*, which Camden has set down as Worcester; and page clxxv. of the first volume of that author has also been cited in proof that Edward the Confessor did coin money in this city. But, on the other hand, it has been contended that *Pœrinc* means Warwick; and a gentleman who is of that opinion stated, in a letter to me, that Camden,

“although a great antiquary, knew but very little about numismatics, and frequently assigned coins to the wrong monarchs.” He gave some instances to that effect, and added that “the Saxon names for Worcester are—Wigea, Wihr, Wir, Wiri, Wice, Wiger, Wigr, Wiher, Wihre, Wihri; while the names for Warwick are Wearwi, Warinc, Waerhica, Verinew, Weric, Werin, and Wœrinc.” But if this be true, several of the Anglo-Saxon coins which Dr. Nash and Mr. Green have set forth as minted at Worcester must have been minted at Warwick.

Camden, in page clxviii. of Vol. I., says: “The question whether the Saxon kings coined any gold is yet undetermined. The latest controversy on the subject between Mr. Pegge and Mr. North was not so much on the general question as whether the coins produced by the former were genuine, which Mr. North argued they could not be on account of the great deficiency in weight. The gold coins supposed to have been struck by the Saxons are called Mancusi or Manes.”

KEMPSEY.

SEVERAL fragments of sepulchral urns, cups, and pans of various shapes and sizes, evidently belonging to the time of the Romans and Romanized or later Britons, were, in the spring of 1835, dug out of a gravel bed at Kempsey. Some of these vessels were made of a coarse dark clay, and others of common red or brick clay. The fragments were discovered about three feet and a half beneath the surface; they were enveloped in a black ash, and deposited in a cavity or cist of about six yards in circumference, over which a roof of broken pebbles and clay had been originally formed; but it had fallen into the cist, and probably broke the vessels. There were also a few fragments of bones in the same cist, all of which

most probably belonged to a horse, as one of them is part of the jaw-bone of that animal, with several teeth in it. A part of a brass or copper fibula or brooch of the Romans or Romanized Britons was likewise found there, (Vide sketch thereof of the natural size in Plate II., No. 21,) and which were used by the men to fasten the tunic and chlamys or cloak on the right or left shoulder, and by the women the vestment in front of the breast. Some of the Roman fibulæ are of the circular form, and others oblong, and not very dissimilar (though much smaller) to the guard beneath the trigger of a gun, and with the acus or pin compressed into the socket, have been compared to a bow ready strung. The one in question is of the latter form, but is destitute of the acus, which probably was of iron and mouldered away.

The relics of a horse found in this cist afford strong evidence that the ashes of a Romanized British chieftain were deposited there—for such costly funeral sacrifices, although very common among our rude ancestors (and constituted a part of their religion), were much restricted among the Romans by the laws of the twelve tables. In some cists, in other parts of the kingdom, fragments of the horns of stags have been found, from which it may be inferred that hunters were buried there.

About a dozen other cists, although not so large as the one already described, were likewise discovered in the course of that year near the same spot whilst excavating for gravel; they contained ashes, broken pebbles, and various articles of broken pottery; and in 1836 and the three following years, several other cists were found there. One of them was of an oval shape, near three yards long, two yards broad, and about five feet deep in the gravel. The others were smaller, and not quite so deep. Some of the latter merely contained black ashes; others contained ashes and fragments of red earth pottery (the mouth of one of the urns being twenty-eight inches in circumference); the greatest cist contained black ashes, and a large broken pan of rather coarse materials, which, judging from a segment of the pan, was three feet in circumference. Several of the fragments have handles, some

of which are of considerable thickness; one of the cists contained a specimen with zig-zag lines thereon, and pieces of urns, cups, and pateræ, together with portions of horse's burnt bones and teeth; in another cist an acus of brass was found mixed up with similar relics. (Vide sketch thereof of the natural size in Plate II., No. 22.) And in the gravel a coin of Nero was discovered. The spot in question is situated about four miles from Worcester, in a ploughed field called the Moors, belonging to Joseph Smith, Esq., on the ridge or precipice of ground, out of flood's-way, which skirts the flat on the east side of the river Severn, and lies between that river and the village of Kempsey, near the northern side of the vallum of an undoubted Roman camp, and within the site of the southern end of which camp Kempsey Church stands. At an adjoining place, called the Parish Gravel Pit, were found about two years ago a small Roman vase and a piece of Samian ware. Most of the articles which are here described I from time to time obtained of the workmen upon the spot, and deposited them in the Museum; the others were presented by Mr. Smith. (Vide sketches of the fragments of three of them in Plate II., Nos. 18, 19, and 20.)

The most ancient mode of sepulture among the ancient Britons was by simple inhumation or deposition of the body in an entire state,* and it is thought that the Phœnicians introduced into this island the mode of burial by cremation or burning. The practice among the ancient Britons of depositing warlike instruments, drinking cups, and other articles with the dead, is likewise supposed to have been derived from the Phœnicians and Belgic Gauls. This custom is of great antiquity, and an instance of it occurs in the book of Joshua, in a very ancient copy of the Septuagint, preserved in the Vatican (although not in our translation), wherein it is stated that knives and instruments of flint were buried with his body in the tomb. The custom is also alluded to in the book of Ezekiel, wherein he speaks of persons who were gone down to

* Vide Mr. Bloxam's work entitled "A Glimpse at Monumental Architecture and Sepulture of Great Britain from the earliest period to the Eighteenth Century," dated 1834, to which I am indebted for much of the above information as to the modes of ancient sepulture.

the grave with their weapons of war, and their swords had been laid under their heads. An instance of the practice of cremation is also recorded in the first book of Samuel (chapter xxxi.), wherein it is stated that the body of Saul and his sons were burnt after they had been taken down from the walls of Bethshan, and the bones were buried under a tree. There are also frequent allusions to the custom in the Homeric poems.

The sepulchral urns and cups of the Celtic and Belgic Britons, differ in many respects from those of the Roman era, and from which they are in general easily distinguished. Those of the Ancient British are coarsely formed at the wheel,* without the lathe, and in shape bear some resemblance to a common flower pot or truncated cone; the ornaments are rude, consisting chiefly of zig-zag and short diagonal lines, and many appear to have been moulded merely by exposure to the sun, or blackened by the funereal fire. Some are of the globular form, and others of a cylindrical shape; the latter are of the most ancient description; and although the cinerary urns and drinking cups of the Romanized Britons and early Saxons were made after the Roman mode, yet they generally corresponded in shape with those of the Ancient Britons, and some of the specimens above described very much accord with these rules.

The Rev. Mr. Rudd, of Kempsey, has in his possession a fragment of a thick slab stone, one yard long, and half a yard wide, with a Latin inscription thereon in honour of Constantine the Great; it was found in the camp there in the year 1818. I have seen this slab, and the following is the inscription upon it:—

VAL C^oNST
ANTINO
PF IN
VICTO
AVG

Valerio Constantino Pio Felici Invicto Augusto.

* The prophet Jeremiah, in describing the potter's tools in his time, says: "Then I went down to the potter's house, and behold he wrought a work on the wheels. Vide chapter 18, v. 3.

Mr. Rudd has also a fragment of a supposed Roman flue, and pieces of Roman tiles, which were found near the same place.

The vallum of the above camp may still be easily traced, but being a mound of gravel it has been in many places much levelled. From all that has been said it is quite evident that the camp was a Roman one, and that the burial ground was also Roman, with this additional fact, that the ashes of Romanized British were also deposited in the same place.

As great alterations are occasionally made at the site of the Kempsey camp,* I will endeavour to give an account of it from its present relics, fearing that in a few more years almost every vestige of it will have passed away.

The west vallum lay on the ridge of ground or precipice skirting the flat on the east side of the Severn. The north end of it commenced at the back of the garden belonging to the Parsonage farm-house, and ran in a line from thence to within about fifteen yards of the south-west corner of Kempsey churchyard, where it bowed round. Judging from a measure I lately made by footsteps, this vallum was about two hundred yards long.

The south vallum appears to have run along the south side of the churchyard, and was about ninety yards long.

The east vallum ran along the east side of the churchyard and other property, and through the garden of Gore Cottage into the orchard behind, and was about two hundred yards long.

The north vallum ran from the above mentioned garden and orchard to the north-west corner of the garden of the Parsonage farm-house (from whence we set out), and was one hundred and eighty yards long or thereabouts. The rounded corner which lay in the garden was very perfect until the latter end of the year 1836, when, I am sorry to say, it was removed; but that portion of this vallum which lies in the orchard still remains entire, and measures twenty-six yards in width

* I do not find any account of this camp in Dr. Nash's work.

POWICK.

Two sepulchral Roman urns, containing burnt human bones, were, in or about the year 1832, dug up at Powick village, at the point of the tongue of land between the roads leading to Upton and Malvern. They lay about nine feet below the surface. One of the urns was accidentally broken to pieces; but the other is quite perfect, of a fine shape, made of red earth, eleven inches high, and nine inches in diameter; the mouth five inches, and the neck and bottom respectively three and a half inches across. The perfect urn has a double rim round the mouth, two indented lines round the small and thick portion of the neck, and two similar lines encircle the part which may be termed the shoulder. (Vide sketch thereof, Plate II., No. 23.) The broken urn is one inch smaller than the perfect one, a little inferior in manufacture, and has only a single rim round the mouth, and is without the indented lines. These sepulchral urns were deposited simply in the ground, without a tumulus, according to the usual manner of the Romans. They are now in the Museum, and were presented by the Right Honourable the Earl of Coventry.

A little to the west of the village of Powick, on the same range of elevated ground, two urns, similar in size to those already described, were, in or about the year 1833, dug up; they contained the bones of children; parts of the cranium, with their sutures, and some of the bones of the arm, were, at the time they were discovered, entire; but, having been deposited in a wet spot, they, shortly after they were found, crumbled to pieces upon exposure to the air.

A coin of Claudius Gothicus, and of Constantine, jun., were also found in the same neighbourhood, and are now in the Museum.

The village of Powick is three miles from Worcester, and situated within a mile of the Teme, on the north, and about the same distance from the Severn, on the east.

RIPPLE.

HAVING heard that some ancient pottery was, in the year 1838, discovered at Bow Farm, in the parish of Ripple, situated about three miles from Tewkesbury and thirteen from Worcester, I went to the spot on the 27th of October of that year, and in a pasture which lies on the eastern border of the Severn, in Worcestershire, and is the next field but one to the verge of the county of Gloucester, I found that the workmen had made a drain twelve feet deep and upwards all across the pasture* into the Severn, and that at about seventy yards from the river they had cut across a very slight rise in the pasture, which runs parallel with the Severn; Mr. W. T. Horniblow, the tenant, and the workmen informed me that all the way through that part they found, at the average depth of about four feet, a stratum of black ashes and cinders, with pieces of pottery; that they also occasionally below such stratum found similar fragments of pottery, and that the earth above the black stratum appeared to them to have been a gradual accumulation, which had, in the course of time, been deposited upon the plain by the occasional floods or overflowings of the river. The trench had been filled up again at the part in question before my arrival; but I picked up several pieces of the pottery and oxidated bits of iron out of the earth which had been excavated; Mr. Horniblow had previously collected several of such fragments in the course of the work, all of which I have deposited in our Museum. He and the workmen also said that they examined the earth above the stratum very carefully, and were satisfied that it had never been disturbed since it was deposited; but that the earth, for four or five feet deep beneath the black stratum, appeared to have been disturbed some time or other. He also said that he was informed by an old workman, that about thirty-five

* Pull Court is situated nearly opposite to this pasture, on the western side of the river.

years ago he assisted in cutting a like drain across the north end of this pasture, where they found, at about the same depth, and in the same line, a similar stratum of ashes, cinders, and pottery.

Upon examining all the specimens of the pottery which were collected, I find that they are fragments of Roman sepulchral urns and pans, exactly like those (now in the Museum) which I discovered in the cists of the Roman burial ground, near the Roman camp at Kempsey; but I am satisfied that this pasture at Ripple was not a burial ground (for it is not out of flood's-way), but that it was a Roman station, where they made their sepulchral and other pottery of the clay which they excavated at or near the spot.*

Not a mile from the pasture, on the north-east side of it, and on the same side of the Severn, there is a very remarkable elevation, called Towbury Hill, which lies in Twyning parish, Gloucestershire, and overlooks the spot in question. That hill (which is composed chiefly of marl) contains on the top of it the site of an ancient camp, of rather an irregular oblong square shape. This was evidently a natural hill, pared down at the sides in steep slopes, and rounded at the corners; but whether the Romans were the first framers of the camp, or whether it was a more ancient one which they took possession of, I cannot pretend to determine. I observe that Mr. Bennett, in his *History of Tewkesbury*, has described it at some length, and given reasons for believing that after the time of the Romans it was occupied by one of the Mercian kings. Judging from a measure which I made by footsteps, this camp appears to be about two hundred and forty yards long on the western side, three hundred on the northern, one hundred and twenty on the eastern, and one hundred and twenty on the southern sides; and within the square, at the south-east corner, there is a circular tumulus, surrounded by a trench, answering to the Roman *prætorium*.

As the workmen at the pasture appeared to think that the before-mentioned black stratum consisted of coal ashes instead

* There are brick-works now within a mile of the place, both above and below it.

of wood, I, on the 9th of the same month, went again to the spot, and got one of the workmen to excavate to the depth of about four feet, where we found several fragments of pottery, both red and black, and also bits of burnt wood and oxidated pieces of iron, but no coal in a burnt state. We found a few bits of unburnt coal in the alluvial soil above the bed; but those, I presume, had been washed there from the coal fields by the floods. I think the workmen imagined that the fragments of black pottery were coal cinders; and I am not surprised at it, for such fragments are so decayed that they look very like them. Since the above excavation was made, Mr. Horniblow, at my request, caused two other holes to be dug there, when, at the depth of four feet, similar pieces of pottery, oxidated bits of iron, and burnt wood, were found, but no burnt coal. I was rather curious to sift this point to the bottom, because the presence of coal ashes in the bed would have proved that the Romans used coal as well as wood at the works. I have also since examined the bed of scoriæ and clinkers at that part of Cinder Point where it crops out upon the steep bank of the Severn, and found several pieces of burnt wood, but not any burnt coal, in the stratum. There were a few bits of unburnt coal in the alluvial soil above the bed, and some of them being rounded shows that they were rolled there by the floods.

At the foot of the hill, on the western side, there is a small brook which divides Worcestershire from Gloucestershire, and over it there is an ancient bridge, called Bow Bridge, from which Mr. Horniblow told me there were several traces at intervals of an ancient paved road, all the way to near Tewkesbury, in the line of an old bridle-road across the fields, by the Mythe Tute, and that such road or track-way was generally about four feet wide, and made of blocks of lias-stone set edgewise against each other; that it was reported that similar traces of it were formerly discoverable from the above-mentioned bridge towards Ripple village, and he thought that it probably continued from that village to within half a mile of Severn Bank, where relics of

such a road still exist, with a branch pointing towards Upton,* and another towards Ripple; that it runs from thence to Severn Bank, and onwards, nearly in the line of the Upton bridle-road, to the turnpike-road at the bottom of Stoke Hill, situated about seven miles from Worcester, where crossing, he said, it turns rather eastward, and is still traceable for about a mile further on, in a direction towards Pershore; and again between that and Defford Common it is said also to have formerly appeared. I therefore, at the same time, examined the whole line of this ancient road, from the southern foot of Bow Bridge to the Mythe Tute, and found that it is exceedingly perfect in some places. It does not follow the line of the present parish road, (which, after passing the bridge from Ripple, runs rather eastward up into the Tewkesbury turnpike-road, between Bockeridge and Shuthonger Commons, where there are lias quarries,) but it runs rather southward along an old bridle-road, and wends its course just out of flood's-way at the foot of the rising grounds which skirt the vale of the Severn. It is discernible in nearly a continuous line all the way from the bridge to the foot of Shuthonger Common, where it is lost, I have no doubt, under the soil, which, in the course of time, has been washed by the rain from the steep of the hill; but it soon appears again at the south-west corner of the common, and continues in a very perfect state in most parts all the way to the Mythe Tute, where it runs round the north side of that hill to the turnpike-road, near the turnpike-gate, where it is lost.

This road was made of blocks of lias set edgewise against each other across the road, and both sides of it has a strong coping or edging of larger blocks of lias set edgewise in parallel lines in the line of the road, a little raised above the cross pieces, the whole resembling a ladder in shape—that is, if the steps of a ladder were placed close against one another. This track-way, without the coping, is exactly four feet wide; the coping generally makes it from two to four inches more, but at insecure parts the coping was made wider with extra blocks

* Vide hereinafter; title, "Upton."

to strengthen the work, and the whole road is nearly double the usual breadth up the steep at the side of the Mythe Tute or Tout.* I should think there is scarcely so perfect a specimen of one of these ancient roads in any part of the kingdom as from the south-west corner of Shuthonger Common to the Mythe Tute; and every one must be struck with the narrowness of this paved way; in fact, no cars, &c., the wheels of which stood more than four feet across from one to the other could go upon it. Those parts of it are most perfect which are close up to the foot of the rising grounds, and partly covered with the detritus from the slopes. Now this doubtless was a Roman road; and if it really went to Pershore, instead of turning along the vales to Kempsey and Worcester, it is probable that there was a branch to the latter places. I have been informed by several persons that blocks of stone, similarly placed, were found about six or seven years ago at a spot in the Bath Road, (which is on the Kempsey side of Worcester,) at the depth of four or five feet in the earth, at the point leading along under the bottom of the hill towards the canal basin. Now although this is not sufficient evidence of a Roman road having passed that way out of Worcester, yet it has considerable weight; and such a road may perhaps sometime or other be further traced at the foot and beneath the detritus of the rising grounds which there skirt the vale of the Severn.

The road in question was probably part or a branch of that called Ryknild (or Rickning) Street, relative to which Dr. Nash, in the Introduction to Vol. I. of his History, page 3, states that "some have supposed it to pass from Bidford, in Warwickshire, through South Littleton, somewhat to the east of Evesham, by Hinton, in Gloucestershire, near Sedgbarrow, in Worcestershire, so to Ashton-under-Hill, Beckford, Ashchurch,

* That hill has all the character of an ancient tumulus, and probably contained one of Ostorius's forts, as it is upon the border of the Severn. I am informed by Mr. Edwin Lees, of Forthampton, that there is in Eldersfield a very remarkable earth work called "Gadbury Banks;" and a tumulus in Castle Morton, surrounded by a ditch.

all in Gloucestershire, and a little east of Tewkesbury ; but as this is a deep clay soil, a Roman road would probably have been thrown up very high, and obvious marks still left."

Bow Bridge, in many parts of it, looks very ancient, I allude particularly to its extraordinary parapet, which runs over its northern side, and which appears to have been built to enable persons and horses to pass over out of flood's-way when the water covered the carriage road. It was, I think, originally all built of lias, but brickwork has since been introduced in parts where arches have been either cut or repaired to give passage to the water at the time of high floods ; and one of these arches is in the Anglo-Saxon style, like those set forth in page 28 of Mr. Bloxam's work on Gothic Ecclesiastical Architecture : but whether it was introduced into the structure in that or in a subsequent age, or what the real age of the most primitive part of the bridge is, or whether it has lost its identity in the occasional repairs, I must leave to those who are skilled in architecture to determine. It is however pretty clear that there must have been a Roman bridge there, for the Roman road comes to the very spot. The parapet varies from twenty to thirty-six inches in thickness, and there is a rack worn along the top of it. It has been repaired from time to time at the top, as occasion required, with old tomb-stones, &c. The arch over the rivulet has lately been rebuilt of brickwork. The parapet extends very considerably beyond the channel of the stream on either side, to the points out of flood's-way, and it is about four hundred and thirty feet long. It gradually slopes down level with the ground at the two ends, and runs from four to five feet high towards the centre of it. As this remarkable parapet is very much in the shape of a bow, I presume that the bridge was therefore designated by that appropriate name.

There is another circumstance worthy of remark connected with these researches, namely, the amount of alluvial soil, or detritus, which has accumulated in the vale of the Severn, by the occasional floods, since the time of the Romans. At

Pitchcroft Ham, upon the top of the bed of scoriæ and clinkers at that part close to the river, I find it to have accumulated six feet thick and upwards; on the east side of the ham I find it, as appears by the stratum at the bottom of the ditch, between three and four feet; and at various depths across the ham, according to the elevations and depressions of the stratum; the average being about four feet, as at Ripple.

UPTON.

COOKE, in his Topographical Library, published in 1830, (title, Worcestershire, page 156,) says: "In the year 1787, a circular cavity was discovered by a shepherd's boy in a corn field in the parish of Upton; upon examination it was found to be the entrance to a cavern of considerable dimensions, sunk about ten feet below the surface, and extending in every direction about twenty feet. At about thirty or forty feet is a body of water, of the estimated depth of about one hundred and forty feet. Various conjectures originated from this discovery, some attributing these excavations to a convulsion of nature, others to the hand of art."

It is said that on the hill at Southend, near Upton, traces of intrenchments appear; and Dr. Nash, in Vol. II. of his History, page 444, remarks that "Stukely, in his *Itinerarium Curiosum*, page 65, first edition, says: 'There was a road along the Severn from Worcester to Upton, where antiquities are dug up. I take the town to be the Upocessa of Ravennas.' The road," he says, "went to Tewkesbury, and joined the Rickning Street,* but no remains are now to be seen."

This appears to be the road referred to in my previous account of Ripple, a great part of which is still remaining.

* Otherwise Ryknild Street.

ECKINGTON AND NORTON-IN-BREDON.

SEVERAL bosses of shields and spear-heads, fragments of a sword, with part of the scabbard mounted with brass, and a blue and a red bead, were lately presented to the Museum by one of the engineers on the Birmingham and Gloucester railway. They were found in Bredon Norton chapelry (at a place called Norton Pitch) by the workmen whilst excavating in the line of the railway. These Mr. Bloxam has seen, and he considers them to be Romanized British or early Saxon, as well as a pan of whitish material, which was also found several feet deep in the earth in the line between Eckington village and the river Avon; the latter has been presented to the Museum by Mr. Milne, one of the contractors, who informed me that several ancient foundations of buildings were discovered at the same spot.

The above places lie near to Bredon Hill, upon which there is the site of an ancient camp, of which I shall hereafter take some notice.

I am assured by an experienced jeweller that one of the above-mentioned beads is malachite, and the other is amber; they are rather flattened, and perforated in the centre. Malachite, although generally green, as the name from the Greek, marsh-mallow, indicates, yet it "is found massive, and of a smalt-blue colour, in Cornwall," &c. (Vide "An Elementary Introduction to Mineralogy," by Mr. William Phillips, fourth edition, enlarged by Mr. Robert Allan, page 320.)

BREDON HILL, KEMERTON.

AT a land-slip at the top of Bredon Hill, which happened at the beginning of the present century, a considerable quantity

of wheat of a parched appearance, and which had been buried in the earth, was discovered. This is supposed to have been an ancient granary, but of what people is uncertain. A specimen of the wheat has been presented to the Museum by Mrs. Davies, of Elmley Park. Wishing to know the particulars, I lately wrote to Mr. William Prior, of Kemerton, who, in reply, informed me that about thirty-five or forty years ago, after a very wet season, as the late Miss Martin, of Norton, was riding along the parapet on the top of Bredon Hill, in the field called Kemerton Camp, her horse began to sink into the ground suddenly and rapidly; that she however kept her seat, and the horse, which had gone down about four or five feet below the level of the firm ground, sprang up and regained his footing. That so soon as Miss Martin had recovered from her surprise, she saw that a land-slip had occurred, and that she had landed on the firm side of the chasm, which at that time opened about thirty feet wide at the surface, and about forty feet deep;* but that it is since partially filled up by the crumbling down of the sides. That he was at the house of the late James Martin, Esq., some few weeks afterwards, when a portion of the parched wheat, found in the excavation, was shewn to him and some other gentlemen, and the general opinion was that it was a part of the stores left behind by the Romans, Saxons, or Danes, at the time when they were there encamped. That in this opinion the late Dr. Nash, who was then present, coincided, and said that there could be no other way of accounting for it. That a few years after, whilst ploughing the Camp Field, some ancient swords mounted with brass were discovered, which swords the late John Parsons, Esq., of Kemerton, claimed, as Lord of the Manor, and afterwards gave them to his house steward, the late Mr. Blomar.

Dr. Nash, in Vol. II., page 234, speaks of this camp as follows:—"On Kemerton Hill, in Gloucestershire, though only a few yards distant from Worcestershire, is a large camp, of a triangular shape, two sides of which are defended by the steep

* Some say the chasm was about two hundred yards long.

precipice at Bredon Hill, looking to the north and west ; the south and east sides are guarded by two ditches, about twenty yards wide each ; the whole ground within the camp is upwards of twenty-one acres. It was ploughed two or three years ago, and several iron weapons found, of so rude and bad workmanship, as bespoke them rather Danish or Saxon than Roman. A plan of it is here given."

Upon a visit which I lately made to Kemerton Camp, in company with William Dent, Esq., on our way to Sudeley Castle, I found the intrenchments in most parts to be still very deep and perfect, and if not disturbed they will probably last till the end of time. The land-slip is also yet visible. The scene we witnessed from the summit of this hill was (owing principally to a heavy storm which came on) truly magnificent ; and upon its partially clearing up, the sun, which was fast declining westward, broke through the murky clouds in that direction, and scattered "the many hues of heaven" over the whole expanse between us and the Malverns, and painted upon the dark curtain towards the Cotswolds a splendid double rainbow ; while the Avon shone in silvery whiteness, and seemed in imagination to be like the wand of Shakspeare calling up the genii around to meet in the bloody "field by Tewkesbury."

BREDON HILL, CONDERTON.

IN Dr. Nash's account of the parish of Overbury, he says : "On Conderton Hill is a small oval camp, one hundred and sixty-five yards long, and seventy-one yards wide : tradition, which is better than conjecture, supposes it to be Danish. Some few Roman coins have been found in the fields." (Vide Vol. II., page 234.)

DORN.

WITH respect to this hamlet, which is in the detached parish of Blockley, near Moreton-in-the-Marsh, it is stated, in "Cooke's Topographical Library," (title Worcestershire, page 108,) that "The fosse way runs out of Gloucestershire through the village of Dorn. According to tradition, this village was formerly a city of some consequence; and the many old foundations, and Roman and British coins found in this neighbourhood, seem to countenance the probable truth of the report. At present, however, Dorn can only boast the possession of a few farm-houses."

Nash, in Vol. I., page 101, of his History, says: "Dorn is supposed to have been a Roman station. Many small coins of base metal have been found here: one of Carausius was lately in the possession of the Rev. Mr. Selwyn, the Vicar." "Dorn has its name from a little stream running here, called Duran, which, in the ancient Celtic, signifies rivulus, or little stream." "Baxter's Glossarium Antiquit. Brit.," page 11.

ICCOMB.

IN describing this detached parish of Worcestershire, which lies in the deanery of Blockley, near Stow, in Gloucestershire, Dr. Nash says: "Here is a camp, supposed to be Danish; it has a single ditch, which in many places is ploughed down." (See Vol. II., page 2.)

HARTLEBURY.

IN Fasciculus II. of the Statistical and General History of Worcestershire, published under the superintendence of the

Statistical Committee of the Worcestershire Natural History Society, in 1839, it is stated in page 6 of the History of the parish of Hartlebury, by Kenrick Watson, Esq., of Stourport, that "when standing upon Hartlebury Common in such a situation as to exclude the view of the surrounding country, an individual might easily be carried in imagination to the plains of Wiltshire, with all their recollections and associations. Immediately beneath the brow of the hill are a number of mounds, in appearance like tumuli*; behind is the village of Torton (Thorstown?); a few miles to the right is Tan† Wood; towards the south, at the distance of five miles, is Woodberry (Wodesberry?) with the surrounding district, Witley, the Holy Place;‡ while beneath his feet the lichens creep upon the arid soil, and here and there is seen a little yellow flower or harebell, sheltered by a patch of furze or heath. Though there are no remains of Druidical structures in this neighbourhood, still the coincidence of names of places with those upon the Wiltshire Downs is remarkable."

Dr. James Nash, of the city of Worcester, has a copper coin of the Roman Emperor Alexander, which was some years back found at Lincomb, in Hartlebury parish.

With respect to Tan Hill, the name appears to be of Celtic origin, and continued in the Welsh. The Rev. W. L. Bowles, in his work called "Hermes Britannicus," upon describing Tan Hill, in Wiltshire, which lies between Abury and Stonehenge, says in page 14, &c.: "The name of the Celtic God of Thunder, it is well known, is Taranis or Tanarus. In Lucan it is Taranis; but an inscription on an altar found in Cheshire has the remarkable words;—'D.O.M. TANARO.' 'To the great Jupiter Tanarus.' This stone remains a singular corroboration of the veracity of Lucan in his names of the Celtic gods; and of Cæsar also, who enumerates Jupiter.

* "Stone arrows have been found near to these mounds."

† "Tan, pronounced Taan, is a Welsh word, signifying fire."

‡ The parish of Great Witley has been described by the Revds. Thomas and John Pearson, in Fasciculus I. of the above History; and Areley Kings and Shrawley in Fasciculus III., by Mr. Watson.

The name, either Taranis or Tanarus, signifies the same deity, for Taran is Celtic for thunder, and Tan for fire, to which name originally the lightning might have given rise; and from hence was derived the name of the sacred fire called the Bel-tan or Baal-tine, flaming on such heights, and answering each other from hill to hill through all the consecrated precincts of the Druids; so that, if called Taranis, it is from thunder, as Tanarus is from lightning or fire."

STOKE PRIOR.

HAVING heard from the Rev. H. Aldham, of Stoke Prior Vicarage, that some antiquities were lately found in the line of the Birmingham and Gloucester railway, at Stoke Prior, on the west side of, and near to the salt works, in a piece of land belonging to the Vicarage, I went there on the 13th of December, 1839, and learned from the workmen that they, a few days previously, dug up two rude brazen bracelets near each other, (which they produced to me,) and which were found about three or four feet deep in the marl, together with fragments of a human skelteton, portions of which I saw. They said that pieces of the bones were within the bracelets at the time they were dug up.

Some hewn blocks of sandstone, perhaps part of the foundation of a building, had also been dug up by the workmen, within a few yards of the spot, and likewise fragments of the bones of some animal; and there had in days of yore been holes dug there three or four feet deep, and filled up again with large unbroken pebbles from a gravel bed. The latter, I conjectured, might have been made for foundations upon which to support pillars or props, as they evidently were not cists.

The bracelets are not exactly of equal size. The smallest, which is the thickest and broadest, is quite plain and edged at each end; the other is slightly ornamented with two or three indents, or beading at each end, and such ends are quite blunt. Now if these were the bracelets of one person, it shows that the females in those days (as I presume they belonged to a female) wore odd bracelets, like the modern fashion.

These are either Ancient British or Romanized British, most probably the latter, as I am informed that a brass gilt armilla or bracelet, like the two in question, was found in 1780, in a barrow on Chatham Downs, of the late British or early Saxon era; and since I was at Stoke Prior I have learnt that the fragments of two tessellated tiles have been discovered at the spot in question, one of them containing two or three circles upon it within each other. Now this, I take it, also favours the idea of these relics being Romanized British.

There is a very similar bracelet to the beaded one figured in Montfaucon's work on Grecian and Roman Antiquities, Vol. III., Part I., page 50, fig. 3.

Stoke Prior lies about eleven or twelve miles from Worcester.

BELBROUGHTON.

IN the year 1833 a Roman jar, containing more than one hundred coins of the early emperors, was found upon the Fern Estate, near Farfield, in this parish. Mr. John Amphlett, of Tapenhall, has several of the coins, which I have seen, namely, some of Adrian and of Antoninus Pius, one of Marcus Aurelius Antoninus, and several of the Gordians and of Philip.

With respect to the probable derivation of the name of this place, see my description of the Malvern Hills. Dr. Nash, in Vol. I., page 56, says it was anciently called Belm, Belne, Beolne, and Balne Bereton.

CLEEVE PRIOR.

IN the year 1811 two jars of Roman coins were found in this parish, and I cannot do better than extract the following letter of E. Rudge, Esq., of Evesham, which appeared in the "Gentleman's Magazine" for December of that year upon the subject.

" Wimpole Street, Nov. 15.

" Mr. Urban,—I send you an account of the discovery of two earthen pots, the one containing gold and the other silver Roman coins, found by a labourer while digging stone in a quarry at Priors Cleeve, about five miles from Evesham, Worcestershire, on the 22nd of October last; the pots are of red earthenware, and I am informed are about eighteen inches wide, and about the same height. They were full of coins, which poured out from the pots when broken by the stroke of the pick-axe. The quantity of gold coin was as much as the fortunate discoverer could carry home at twice. They are of very pure gold, in the most perfect state of preservation; but amongst them are several of copper, plated with gold. The silver coins are worn, and appear to have been in circulation. There can be little doubt but these coins were designed for the payment of the Roman troops stationed in that part of Britain, and may have been buried about the year 403, during the various disturbances which existed at that period.

" In 1781 fifty gold coins were dug up in Stanmore Common, near Brentley Priory, and amongst them were several of Valentinian and Gratian, similar to those described below. The following inscriptions I have copied from such as I have seen, and which are but few, for the discoverer, apprehending a claim from the Lord of the Manor, refused, soon after their discovery, any information respecting them; so that whether there were other coins in the pots than what I have described remains to be ascertained.

“*Situation of the pots when discovered.*—The pots stood upon stone of eight inches in depth, in a stratum of clay of eighteen inches; over the pots was placed stone of four inches in depth, and above that the natural soil, sixteen inches deep from the surface.”

Mr. Rudge then fully detailed the inscriptions which were upon the coins; but I shall only give the names of them, which are as follow :—

GOLD COINS.

Valentinianus.
Gratianus.
Valentinianus, jun.
Theodosius.

SILVER COINS.

Constantius.
Julianus.
Valentinianus.
Gratianus.
Mag. Maximus.
Theodosius.

The fact of the finding of these coins is also noticed by Mr. May, in his “History of Evesham,” published in 1834, wherein he states, in page 248, that the spot where they were found lies “a very few yards west of the existing road, at its entrance into Cleeve from Middle Littleton,” and mentions a coin of Constantine as one of the number; he also suggested that they “might possibly have been secreted by some Roman commander prior to an encounter, in which his forces were routed, and himself slain.”

In the Companion to Greenwood’s Map it is stated that “a goldsmith of London offered the finder three hundred pounds for them, which he refused.” The discovery is also noticed in the *Worcester Journal* for the 31st of October, 1811, where it is stated that “counterfeits were discovered among them, executed in a most excellent manner, being copper, plated with gold. The silver coins were not in so good preservation as the gold. The execution of these coins is of course not very good, the art of cutting the dies being at that period very much upon the decline. The man has acknowledged that he found one hundred of the gold coins; the silver most probably greatly exceeded that number.”

The Rev. R. D. Stillingfleet, Vicar of Cleeve Prior, in a letter which I lately received from him, in answer to some enquiries I made respecting the coins, stated that the man who found them conveyed them secretly to his own house, without at first communicating the circumstance to any one in Cleeve Prior; that he afterwards took them to the Dean and Chapter of Worcester, (the Lords of the Manor,) who, after reserving a few of the coins, returned them to the man. Mr. Stillingfleet further added that "there was a discovery made in the village in the year 1824 of a number of human skeletons on a bank immediately above the river Avon, and not very remote from the field in which the coins were found."

I have seen several of these coins in the possession of the Rev. Allen Wheeler, of Worcester, and the Rev. William Brown, of Bredicot; and, in addition to some of the above, they have those of Valens, Valerian, D. N. Fl. Victor, and Gordianus Pius.

I understand the finder's name is ~~Thos~~ Sheppey, and he represented that a goat's head was found in the excavation, which perhaps was a votive offering upon depositing the coins.

OMBERSLEY.

A MASS of fragments of Roman red earth pottery, and a few pieces of Samian ware, were discovered by Mr. John Amphlett, of Tapenhall, in two mounds, on Hadley Heath Common, in this parish; which mounds, upon the enclosure of the common in or about the year 1815, were levelled. These mounds appear to have been the relics of Roman pottery works. One of them stood within, and the other just without the site of a Roman camp at that place. Mr. Amphlett presented some of the specimens of the pottery to the Museum, and they exactly correspond in character with those which I obtained from Kempsey and Ripple.

Dr. Nash, in the second volume of his History, page 216, says that "Bishop Kennet, in his Parochial Antiquities, pages 23 and 24, derives the name Ambresloy from Aurelius Ambrosius, whom Gildas makes of Roman extraction, and who survived the murder of his royal parents. Other historians report him to be the son of Constantine, King of Britain, by a Roman lady, born about the year 435. The Bishop supposes Ambresloy, like Ambrosden, to have alluded to some camp or scene of action of this victorious Prince, who defeated the Saxons under Hengist, at Wippedflit, in Kent; then marched to York; in his return from which place to Winchester and Salisbury he would naturally pass through Worcestershire."

Now the discovery of the above-mentioned camp and pottery works at Hadley Heath appears completely to verify the supposition of the Bishop as to the derivation of the name of Ombersley. Upon my lately visiting Hadley Heath, in company with Hugh B. Peake, Esq., and Mr. Amphlett, the latter gentleman pointed out to us where the intrenchments lay, relics of which still remain in places, though much effaced by the plough and spade: there are, however, several sections of them in that part of the common which has not been enclosed. Mr. Amphlett thought that the lines of intrenchment extended round an oblong square of between two and three miles in circumference, and informed us that the workmen who were employed at the enclosure dug up, at the south-east side of the camp, a leaden chest, upon which was an inscription; that the finders broke it to pieces and sold it as old materials; and that near thereto a tumulus, which contained burnt bones, was levelled. He likewise pointed out to us that part which is considered to have been the *prætorium*. It lies in a ploughed field, now called Castle Hill, and abuts against a copse called Knight's Grove. This *prætorium* was about eighty yards long and seventy broad, and the trench all round it is still visible, particularly so on the wood side. In the same field as the *prætorium*, one of the mounds, which contained the fragments of pottery, stood; and we found several specimens at the spot. Mr. Amphlett also said, that near

this mound the upper or convex stone of one of the ancient hand-mills was discovered, called by the inhabitants querns.* We also examined the spot called Priest Stile, where the other mound stood, which contained the fragments of pottery, and of which pottery we found several specimens. This place lies near the north-west corner of the camp.

The same observations which I made relative to the situation of Oldbury, near Worcester, apply with equal force to this locality, as it is a fine upland situation, commanding a view of, and would communicate with nearly all the principal hills in the county, particularly with the northern ones.

There is a trench which runs through the site of this camp, and on in a southern direction to Salwarp Brook, at a place called Harford; and Mr. Amphlett considered that it was a Roman road which went from thence to Newland Common, in Salwarp parish, and joined the Trench Lane there.

SALWARP.

WE therefore examined this district, and considered that the trench road lay in or near the line of the present lane, which runs eastward from near Salwarp Brook, at Harford, to the Birmingham and Worcester turnpike road at Copcott Elm, near Droitwich, where it crosses and continues round the north end of Newland Common to the Trench Lane, which lane runs south-eastward through Oddingley, and along the east side of the Trench Woods,† through Hodington, to the turnpike

* We have the nether or convex stone of one of these mills in the Museum, which was found in a bog at Pool, near Stourport: it measures thirty-nine inches in circumference. Mr. Amphlett informed me that the more modern querns are not concave and convex, but flat, and approximate to those of the modern corn-mills.

† The Trench Lane is crossed at the northern end of the Trench Woods by the Birmingham and Gloucester Railway.

road. It most probably, however, crossed there, and continued southward along or near the present by-roads to Pershore, or it may have gone more south-eastward through Evesham. Now this most likely was part or a branch of the road called Ryknild Street, which I have before described as running from near Tewkesbury, through Ripple, to Severn Stoke, and pointing towards Defford Common and Pershore; and from one or other of the latter places it might have joined the south end of the Trench Lane either direct or round by Evesham. Mr. Amphlett thought that it continued from Hadley Heath northward to Wassal Hill Camp, near Bewdley; but of this he said he had no certain information. He also supposed that another Roman trench road branched northward from the north end of the Trench Lane, at Newland Common, in or near the line of the present by-road which runs from thence through Droitwich. And he said that it could be distinctly traced in places through Chad-desley, Bluntington, Tan Wood, Hill Pool, and over Harborow Hill, (where there is an intrenchment,) to the district between Kenvaur Edge and Wichbury Hill, and that this road is called the King's Headland at the latter part. That there was a viaduct at Hill Pool over Barnett Brook, and that traces of the road are very distinct in several parts from Bluntington, through Tan Wood,* to Hill Pool, for more than a mile, and occasionally onwards to Harborow, and from the latter place almost continuously to Stourbridge Common, where, by a place called Green's Forge, is a vast camp called the Churchyard. This no doubt is the road which Bishop Lyttleton spoke of as passing in the line from Stourbridge Common to that of Hagley, and he suspected that it also proceeded through Clent and Chaddesley towards Worcester.† Now if this was the case, the probability is that the Kings' Headland road crossed what I shall call the Ryknild Street, either at the north end of the Trench Lane, and proceeded to

* As to the origin of the name of this place, see "Hartlebury."

† Vide Nash, Vol. II., Appendix, p. cvii., &c.

Worcester through Tibberton, or it continued along the Trench Lane to the north-east end of the Trench Woods, and then branched off westward through Crowle, Bredicot, and Spetchley, to Worcester, through the trench on King's Hill, at the north end of Perry Wood,* and passed out of the city on the Sidbury side, and through Kempsey to Severn Stoke, and there rejoined the Ryknild Street.

We also examined Newland Common, which is a fine upland situation like Oldbury, and found that there is a deep trench, which runs southward from near the road at the north end of the common to the highest part, now called Bunker's Hill. A person of the name of Thomas Garfield, who was, as we passed, working in the Trench Lane, told us that the trench on the common was much deeper before the enclosure than it now is, and that in or about the year 1822 (being six or seven years after the enclosure) he was employed by the tenant, Mr. Matthew Wilson, of Ockley, to remove some tumps or mounds of earth, four or five in number, which lay about twenty yards apart from each other, upon the top of Bunker's Hill, and in so doing he found that each mound contained a kind of iron hoop or ring, of about five feet in diameter, four inches broad, and two inches thick; that these rings were situated at the bottom of the mounds, in the centre of them, and were nearly decayed with age and rust. That the mounds were composed of sifted dirt, and were each about eight yards in diameter, and five feet high; and that there was not any appearance of bones or ashes in them. For what purpose these mounds and rings were, and to what people they are to be attributed, I am not able to form an opinion. We perambulated the Trench Woods, but they were so very thick that we could not find any remarkable trenches within them.†

It has been supposed by some writers‡ that the Roman way from Gloucester to Ad Antonam, a lost station on the

* As to this trench, vide the remarks under the head "Elbury Hill."

† Ambrose Florence, in page 18 of his work, speaks of trenches and a fosse there.

‡ Vide Bennett's "History of Tewkesbury," page 277.

Avon, was made to run a little to the eastward of Tewkesbury, coming into the present Evesham Road about Ashchurch. Others have conjectured that it ran near to Cheltenham and Winchcomb, on its way to the passage over the Avon. Dr. Stukeley explains the *Ad Antonam* of the Romans to be Evesham, while some have believed it to have been near Sedgebarrow; but it may have been just by Eckington village, where ancient foundations were discovered by the workmen in the line of the railroad near the Avon. Upon a late inspection of this spot (since I wrote the article entitled "Eckington," &c.) I found it to be about two hundred yards from the north side of the village, and within three-quarters of a mile of the river. Mr. Milne and one of the workmen pointed out to me where the relics lay, and informed me that during the cutting for the railroad they discovered there, at the depth of several feet, a great many human bones, fragments of pottery, drains, bricks, stone foundations of buildings, and a rough quoined well, about four feet wide and ten feet deep, which passed through about four feet of soil and six feet of gravel, and was filled up with earth and rubble, having fragments of the bones and horns of the ox and deer species at the bottom, which was shaped like a bason; and that two other quoined wells were discovered there, filled with blackish earth. I found some specimens of the pottery in the mound of earth and gravel which had been thrown out there, some resembling the supposed Romanized British or early Saxon pan which I have previously described* as discovered at this excavation, and others exactly like the Roman red earth pottery which I found at Kempsey. Being fully satisfied that this was a Roman station, and most probably the *Ad Antonam*, I endeavoured to trace the line of the Roman road to it; and having passed into Strensham, I conjectured that it ran from Severn Stoke across the county to Lower Strensham, and that it passed not far from the cottage where Butler the author of *Hudibras* was born, and through a pasture on the south side of the Moat Farm House (where there is a trench), and up what is called Green Hill and the

* Vide page 30.

Park Grounds (where there is a line of intrenchment), to that part of the hill where Strensham Church stands, and from thence most probably across the Avon, at one of the fords, to Eckington. G. Bryan, Esq., of the Moat Farm, and Dr. Grove, the Rector of Strensham parish, kindly pointed out to me the above line of intrenchment from the pasture to near the Church. Before leaving this farm I must notice that there is a double moat, forming nearly a square, at the eastern side of the house, with a high ridge between the moats. The present old house is supposed to have been built of the materials of the ancient (perhaps baronial) seat, which no doubt stood in the centre of the moats. This property belongs to John Taylor, Esq., of Strensham Court.

CROWLE.

WITH respect to this place, Dr. Nash, in the first volume of his History, page 281, says: "In a field in this parish, adjoining to Hodington, was discovered, near two centuries ago, a stone coffin lined with lead,* and containing the bones of a man, almost mouldered away, with an earthen pitcher or urn at the head of it. These were supposed to have been the remains of some Danish warrior who had fallen in battle: an opinion which seems to be confirmed by the quantities of human bones frequently ploughed up around the place, and the traces of fortifications till of late distinguishable, though now overgrown with woods. Dr. Thomas imagines this person was Simund the Dane. The stone of which the coffin was made so nearly resembled what is produced out of Burford quarry, in Oxfordshire, that a friend of Mr. Habingdon, a great naturalist, did not hesitate to affirm it was hewn from thence."†

* It will be observed in the account of Hadley Heath camp, in Ombersley, that a leaden chest was found there.

† Habingdon MSS.

BREDICOT.

As some workmen, in the summer of 1839, were excavating in the line of the Birmingham and Gloucester Railroad in this parish, they found, at the depth of about two feet in the earth, under the spreading boughs of a very large and ancient pollard elm, just by Bredicot Court, a small Roman urn of red clay, which is four inches and one-eighth high, eleven inches and a half round the middle of it, six inches round the neck, and four inches round the foot. (Vide sketch thereof, Plate II., No. 24.) The shape is like a skittle, and I am informed there were about one hundred and forty small copper coins in it, which were distributed amongst the workmen; but the urn and sixty-two of the coins having been procured for my inspection, by Henry Chamberlain, Esq., of the above court, I found, after clearing them of much oxidation, that they were all Roman, and that the heads upon fifty-seven of them had the iron crown. Those of the emperors I made out are as follow:—Seven of Gallienus; eleven of Claudius Gothicus; and one of Probus; also one of Salonina, wife of Gallienus; and the following of the usurpers in Gaul and Britain: one of Posthumus; nine of Victorinus; twenty four of Tetricus; and four of Carausius.

In the “Universal History,” vol. 19, page 161 and 162, the revolt of the Britons in the reign of Gallienus, and the names of the usurpers acknowledged in Britain, are stated; and it is worthy of remark that the Bredicot urn contained coins of all of them except Lollianus and Allectus. It is doubted whether a genuine coin of Lollianus has ever been found.

This interesting urn, which is quite a little history of those times, was probably deposited at Bredicot (which lies between two and three miles from the site of the ancient camp at Elbury Hill) in the civil wars between Carausius and Allectus, for I do not find that it contained any coins of the Constantine family, who succeeded them; but as I have only seen part of the coins (the others having been carried away by the workmen), the evidence is not absolutely conclusive upon the subject. I procured the urn and about forty of the coins for the Museum. Bredicot is situated about four miles north-east of Worcester.

HAGLEY,

OTHERWISE HAGGELEGH OR HAGELEIA.

DR. NASH, in Vol. I., pages 485 and 486 of his work, says: "In Domesday Book it is written Hageleia, from the Saxon Haga, *domus*, and Leag, or Lega, *locus*, being probably the chief residence of a great Saxon lord, and styled by way of eminence 'The Manor Place.' " "Hagley affords some considerable remains of Roman antiquity: a large camp on Wichbury Hill, having on the south side a double agger, or deep ditch, now covered with wood. Several coins of the lower empire have been found in the adjoining fields, and particularly an earthen pot filled with them was taken out of a pool on the side of the hill not many years since. In 1738 a farmer, stubbing up an old tree which grew on the hill very near Wichbury Camp, discovered an iron chain almost rotten with age and rust, in which hung, as in a sling, a large round stone about the size of a man's head, a groove being cut quite round the stone the more commodiously to receive the chain. I have no doubt but this was a military weapon used by the Romans, though it is not exactly described by Vegetius, or any other ancient writer.*

"On Clent Heath, about a mile and a half below Wichbury, are five barrows or lows, which were perhaps thrown up by the Romans, the constant tradition of the inhabitants assigning them to those people; and one which I caused to be opened several years ago affording a considerable quantity of burnt wood and ashes at the depth of fourteen feet. Two others have been since opened, in one of which, at about the depth of two feet, exactly in the centre, was discovered an

* "Hearne's Glossary to Robert of Gloucester.—Mangonel, tormentum, catapulta bellica, mangonel ingin.;—an old-fashioned sling (saith Cotgrave *v.* mangonneau,) or engine, whereout stones, old iron, &c., were violently darted. Some of the most antient military weapons were slings. Our ancestors the Britons were expert at them. After slings, catapults, battering rams, and other engines."

urn filled with small human bones, very white, to the quantity of two quarts. The urn was broken all to pieces by the workman's spade, and appeared to be of very coarse ill-burnt clay. At about the depth of two feet lower, on the west side of the tumulus, was found a pretty large quantity of bones, ashes, and burnt wood, lying promiscuously together. The last that we opened contained no urn; but at the depth of two yards, exactly in the centre, was a circular cavity of about a foot diameter, and pretty nearly of that depth, filled wholly with human bones and burnt wood. I am of opinion that the Roman general or chief was honoured with an urn for his bones in the former of these two last-described lows or tumuli, and perhaps the bones of his principal officers are those which lay in the same low heaped together, but that the last-mentioned low contained the bones of the common soldiers, or some of them at least who fell in the action.

“The inhabitants of Clent and Hagley talk of an engagement which happened on this spot between the Romans and Britons, and say the former were encamped on Wichbury and the latter on Clent Hill before the battle was fought. Harborow, which is the name of the lands and farm adjoining to the lows, carries in it something military, being a Saxon compound of *Depe* (here) *exercitus*, and *Berie* (Berie) *campus*, i. e., a plain where an army is assembled. Thus Mr. Hearne etymologizes Harborough in Leicestershire.

“Probably a neighbouring stream, called Horestone Brook, was so denominated from a stone or rude pillar erected near it by the victorious Britons, it not being the practice of the Romans to erect such pillars; and hence the learned Dr. Plott conjectures that Baston, in the neighbouring parish of Kenvaur, is a British monument of a victory there obtained. A Roman road passes through part of Hagley Common, and is now called the King's Headland; but I have some suspicion it was more anciently called the Portway, a name common to the Roman military highways; for in a court roll of the manor of Clent, temp. Elizabeth, mention is made of a road styled the Portway, on the Lord's Waste, which could be no other than

Clent Heath, adjoining to Hagley. A very rare and singular piece of antiquity, a small image of stone, about two inches in length, was found in 1752, at a considerable depth within a ragstone quarry, in Hagley Park. It is a very rude figure of a man, but ending in a term. The ablest antiquaries, to whose inspection it has been submitted, have all pronounced it Phœnician, being too rude for the work of a Roman artist: British it could not be, as the Ancient Britons allowed of no effigiated idol. This image agrees in all respects with the teraphim mentioned in Scripture."

I have extracted the whole of the above passage because it strongly bears upon our ancient British antiquities, which I have described in the account of the hills. With respect to the slings, I have been informed by Mr. Timings, of Holy Cross House, Clent, that near Wichbury Hill round hewn stones (or nearly so) are frequently found, supposed to have been used by the Roman slingers in their battles; and that the idol is said to be now in the British Museum.

As to Horestone Brook, I must notice that upon the border of Sapey Brook, in the parish of Tedstone Delamere, in Herefordshire, near the verge of the county of Worcester, there is a high and large mass of calcareous incrustations or travertine called the Hoar Stone;* perhaps this was so called from its whitish appearance, and in many respects resembling hoar-frost and icicles. If Horestone Brook contains either travertine or white pebbles in any abundance, that may account for the name of it. In these names may probably be traced the veneration which the ancients had for white stones. In the seventeenth verse of the second chapter of Revelations it is said: "To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it." Dr. Adam Clarke, in commenting upon this verse, says:—

* Vide account thereof, and of a similar enormous mass called Southstones Rock (vulgò Rotch), near Stanford Court, in this county, in my pamphlet on the Old Red Sandstone of Worcestershire and Herefordshire. The above Court is the seat of Sir Thomas Edward Winnington, Bart.

I. "It is supposed that by the white stone is meant *pardon* or *acquittance*, and the evidence of it; and that there is an allusion here to the custom observed by judges in ancient times, who were accustomed to give their suffrages by *white* and *black* pebbles: those who gave the former were for *absolving* the culprit, those who gave the latter were for his *condemnation*. This is mentioned by Ovid: *Metam.*, Lib. XV., verse 41.

A custom was of old, and still remains,
Which life or death by suffrages ordains:
White stones and *black* within an urn are cast,
The *first absolve*, but fate is in the *last*."

DRYDEN.

II. "Others suppose there is an allusion here to conquerors in the public games, who were not only conducted with great pomp into the city to which they belonged, but had a *white stone* given to them *with their name inscribed on it*; which badge entitled them, during their whole life, to be maintained at the public expense. See *Pind.*, *Olymp.* VII., 159, and the scholia there; and see the collections in *Wetstein*, and *Rosenmüller's* note. These were called *tessera* among the Romans, and of these there were several kinds;" which the learned Doctor enumerates at considerable length.

In *Hewlett's Bible* the following note appears upon the above text:—"This seems to allude to an ancient custom among the Romans, by which they cultivated and preserved a lasting friendship between particular persons or families. The method of doing this was usually by a small piece of bone, or ivory, and sometimes of stone, shaped in the form of an oblong square, which they called a '*tessera*.' This they divided lengthwise into two equal parts, on each of which one of the parties wrote his name, and interchanged it with the other. And by producing this when they travelled, it gave a mutual claim to the contracting parties, and their descendants, of reception and kind treatment at each other's houses, for which reason it was called the '*hospitable tessera*.' Hence came the proverbial expression of '*breaking the hospitable tessera*,' which was applied to those who violated their engagements.

Our translators, by rendering it ‘a white stone,’ seem to have confounded it with the calculus, or small globular stone, which was made use of in balloting, and on other occasions. By this allusion therefore the promise made to the Church of Pergamos seems to be to this purpose: that the faithful among them should hereafter be acknowledged by Christ, and received into a state of favour and perpetual friendship. And with this sense the following words very well agree, which described this stone or tessera, as having in it ‘a new name written, which no man knoweth, saving he that receiveth it.’ For as the name in the Roman tessera was not that of the person who possessed it, but of his friend who wrote it, so it was known only to the possessor, who doubtless kept it both privately and with great care, that no other person might enjoy the benefit of it, which was designed only for himself and family.”*

CLENT.

MUCH might be said relative to the antiquities of this parish, which, although now part of Staffordshire, was, till the reign of King Edward the Third, part of Worcestershire, and is at the present time nearly encircled by it: but as my principal object has been to discover and describe the antiquities of the interior of Worcestershire, I must desist saying much about Clent. I cannot however forbear giving the following interesting facts, which I have learned from Mr. Timings, of that place, and also from his works, entitled “A Guide to the Clent Hills,” and “The History and Antiquities of St. Kenelms.”

In or about the year 1790 a large jar filled with Roman gold and silver coins was discovered by a labourer of the name of Benjamin Phillips, as he was making a new pool in Clent Heath, a little below where the battle between the Romans

* See also Dr. Ward’s Dissert., page 231.

and Britons was fought. In 1792 some silver coins were found in a meadow at Old Mill. In another meadow lying east of this a jar of gold coins and another of silver coins were found by labourers; and about the same date, upon pulling down an old wall in Rowley Regis parish, a jar containing a great number of Roman coins was discovered, several of which Mr. Timings said he had seen.

In his "Guide to the Clent Hills" he gives a full description of the position of the Roman and British armies, and the battles of Walton, Clatter-Batch, and Clent Heath, and particularizes the ancient trenches on Walton Hills, the rampart on Clent Hill, tumuli, urns, bones, coins, and skeletons: he also describes Bar Beacon and other ancient relics.

In his "History of the Antiquities of St. Kenelms" he fully sets forth the barbarous murder of the young Mercian King Kenelm, in the year 819, by his unnatural sister Quendreda and Ascobert; his first burial at St. Kenelms and removal to Winchcomb Abbey; and the discovery of several Roman and Saxon coins at different times at St. Kenelms, which is situated at the east end of the Clent Hills, and one mile from Clent village.

Dr. Nash also, in Vol. II. of his History, Appendix, page 10, gives the history of this murder at considerable length.

HALES OWEN,

FORMERLY CALLED HALES AND HALAS.

THIS parish is situated partly in Shropshire and partly in Worcestershire, but the whole was in the latter county till the time of the conquest. Dr. Nash, in his History, Vol. I., page 509, says: "This parish affords some Roman antiquities. A military road, called the Portway, passes through Warley

Wigorn, and probably is a branch from the great Roman Ykenyld* Street, which passes within a very few miles of this place in its course from Edgbaston to Wall, near Litchfield, the Etocetum of the Itinerary. In the road leading from Causeway Green, in Warley Wigorn, towards Oldbury, and near Langley, were found great quantities of iron cinders: whether they were British, Roman, or Saxon, I will not affirm,† but great quantities have of late years been carried away and worked over again to advantage. (See Pennant's Tour in Wales, Vol. I., page 64, where he mentions the same kind of cinders to have been discovered in other parts of the kingdom.”)

“A place called the Quintan, lying in Hales parish, so denominated from the ancient Roman sport still practised here, proves the Romans to have been stationed in this place. The learned antiquary, Bishop Kennet, in his “Parochial Antiquities of Burcester,” observes that “running at the Quintan was not continued in any part of Oxfordshire, except where the Roman ways did run, or where some Roman garrison had been placed.” In page 521, the Doctor, in his description of Oldbury Manor, situated in the Shropshire part of Hales parish, added that “Oldbury denoted a Roman camp or station; and that a Roman road, called the Portway, passed very near, if not through it;” and that “the Portway seems to have been a vicinal road, branching from the Ykenyld or Rycnyld Street;” and that “at Oldbury, in Wilts, there is a remarkable Roman camp, and in Warwick and Gloucestershire are villages so called, that were undoubted Roman stations.”‡

I have previously noticed a place called Oldbury in the parish of Saint John, near Worcester.

* Or Ryknild Street,

† Vide what has been previously said under the head “Worcester.”

‡ Upon looking at the places mentioned by Dr. Nash as Roman stations, they are all without exception (save the slight admission relative to the Cinder Point iron works before referred to) upon the borders of the county; while the principal part of the Roman stations and relics which I have described have been discovered in the interior of it.

TICKENHILL.

It is stated in "Cooke's Topographical Library," (title, Worcestershire, page 116,) that "A gold coin of the Emperor Tiberius was found, in a state of uncommon preservation, in the ancient forest of Wyre, about the year 1770."* The above place is in the parish of Ribbesford.

WICHENFORD.

I HAVE in my possession two Roman coins which were lately found upon digging up the foundation of an old building at the farm called Woodend, in this parish. The one is a coin of Victorinus, and the other of Constans. The obverse of the latter has the portrait of the sovereign, with a ball in his hand, and the inscription DN. CONSTANS, P.F. AVG.; and on the reverse there is the figure of the emperor armed, in a grotto or hiding-place, leading out a boy, supposed to be one of the Christians, by the hand, thereby indicating his guardian care of them, with the inscription FEL : TEMP : REPARATIO. P.L.C. A similar coin is set forth in Paten's work on Roman Coins, pages 471 and 472, figure 5, with an interesting description of it.

GRIMLEY.

THERE is an ancient British stone celt in the possession of Mr. John Evans of Worcester, which was found in the year 1835 by a workman in a gravel bed, several feet beneath the surface, near Ball Mill, in Grimley parish. Upon an examination of the spot I found that this bed lies upon rather elevated

* Also vide Nash's History, Vol. II., page 277.

ground on the western side of the Severn, nearly opposite to Bevere Island, and within a short distance of it. The celt is five inches long, two inches broad at the one end, and one inch and six-eighths at the other end, and one inch and an eighth broad, and one inch and six-eighths thick in the middle, and weighs nine ounces and a half. It is edged at both ends, but the one end has been rather blunted and lessened a little by use. It has a hole through it for a handle. Sketches of the broad side and upper or under side of it are given in Plate II., Nos. 13 and 14.

PERDISWELL.

A REMARKABLE bronze specimen, which is in my possession, composed most probably of brass and copper, was lately found about two feet deep in a gravel bed at Perdiswell,* in the parish of Claines, which place lies nearly opposite to Bevere Island, and within about two miles of it, and the same distance from Worcester. Several antiquaries, to whom it was shown, differed as to its age: some thought it Celtic, others Roman, and others Romanized British, and they were also puzzled as to what use it was applied; but Mr. Bloxam, in a letter to me, of which the following is an extract, appears to throw some light upon the subject:—"On the article of bronze from Perdiswell I am not able to give a decided, but a conjectural opinion only, inasmuch as I have never yet met with, or seen described or engraved an article of similar design. I conceive it however to be an ancient or Roman British torque or ornament worn round the neck; and unless it is that, I know not how to designate it, or to what other use it may have been applied. The torques which have been discovered both in this country and in Ireland are circular wreaths, each formed of a twisted bar of gold, with a hook at each end. They were however sometimes formed of baser metal. The torque in your possession, if indeed it be one, for I cannot speak with certainty, is different in fashion from those generally found, and

* Near the seat of Sir Offley Parbury Wakeman, Bart.

I think it, from the milling observable on the different portions, to be of a late, that is of the Roman era, and should therefore be inclined to suppose it to be a Roman British ornament ; and that it should differ from the gold torques in massiveness is not surprising when we consider the difference in the metal. Whatever opinion may however be formed of it, certainly it is an exceedingly curious relic."

A sketch of this fragment is given in Plate II., No. 17. It is rather more than the third of a circle, and was probably broken in battle. It is eight inches long in the curve, and weighs half a pound. An iron rod runs through the centre of it, and the brass or copper pieces or joints thereon, which may be called *vertebræ*, are twenty in number, and between each there is a thick ring, all fitting close together. The circumference of the whole must have been exactly eighteen inches.

BEVERE ISLAND.

THE several coins in my possession (the particulars of which are stated below) were collected by a gentleman of Bevere, in Claines parish, and some of them it is said were found on Bevere* Island.

A colonial coin of Augustus and Agrippa, with their joint portraits on the obverse ; and on the reverse the words "Col. Nem." (*Colonia Nemausus*†), with a crocodile chained to a palm tree, an apt emblem of their victories in Egypt. A coin of Tiberius, with his portrait. Also one with his whole figure in a sitting posture, and which should contain the legend "Civitatibus Asiæ Restitutus,"‡ but it is obliterated. Coins of Galba, Vespasian, Domitian, Trajan, Marcus Antoninus, Dioclesian, Constantine the Great, and Valentian, with their portraits. A consecration coin of Faustina, the wife of Antoninus Pius, with her portrait, and the inscription *Diva*

* So called from beavers having formerly frequented it.

† The modern Nismes in France.

‡ These cities had been destroyed by an earthquake.

Faustina on the obverse, and Juno on the reverse. And a Greek coin, with a head of a female on the obverse, and a dragon or monster and the Greek word *Massa* on the reverse, shewing that it was a colonial coin of *Massilia* (the modern *Marseilles*).

In or about the year 1809 an ancient British bronze metal celt was dug up in *Bevere Island*. It is four inches and one-eighth long, two inches and three-eighths broad at the widest end, one inch and three-eighths broad at the middle, and six-eighths of an inch broad at the narrowest end, and two-eighths of an inch thick in the centre, and weighs six ounces and three-quarters. It was formerly in the possession of the late Mr. Frank Sheriff, and now of Mrs. Spriggs, of this city. It is rather sharp at both ends, but most so at the smallest end. It has no marks or indents at which a handle could have been fastened. This is said to be an ancient British celt of the earliest form. Bronze celts were afterwards formed with sockets for the reception of handles; but this appears to have been inserted in the handle, and was therefore of greater antiquity. (Vide sketch thereof, half the size of the original, in Plate II., No. 15.)

Before leaving the interesting subject of celts, I must notice that Dr. Nash has in his *History* given an account of a celt which was found in the parish of *Malvern*.

Considering the natural advantages of an island like that of *Bevere* in a military point of view, and taking into account the finding of the above ancient British and some of the above Roman relics in this locality, and at *Grimley*, and *Perdiswell*, we may be led to suppose that it is the site of one of the battles between the Ancient Britons and Romans, and perhaps of the battle described in the *Universal History*, Vol. 19, pages 131 and 132, from which account it appears that *Claudius the First* having sent *Plautius* with an army into Britain, he with great difficulty having found the Silurian Princes *Caractacus* and *Togodumnus* (the two sons of *Cunobeline*), defeated them both, and afterwards gained another battle over the Britons on the banks of a river, where they lay

carelessly encamped, imagining the Romans could not pass it without a bridge. This river, the historian states, is supposed to have been the Severn. In addition to this, the west or right bank of the Severn is in certain parts considered by several writers, particularly by Mr. Hume and Mr. Murchison, to have been the eastern boundary of Siluria; and the spot in question was highly favourable for the Silurians to defend their eastern border, as it is flanked by the Ankerdine, Berrow, Woodbury, and Abberley Hills, to which they could retreat in case of necessity, such hills being only about four or five miles off, and upon the top of the Berrow and Woodbury Hills there are very perfect intrenchments of ancient camps. The stone celt found at Grimley is, I think, of old red sandstone, which abounds in and about Siluria; and if the coins of Augustus and Tiberius (the predecessors of Claudius) were those of the before-mentioned coins which were found on Bevere Island, they and the brass celt, and the Grimley stone celt, and the Perdiswell torque, add much weight to the idea of this having been the site of the above-mentioned battle of the Severn. About two miles from this spot, on the eastern side of the river, is a Toth or Tute Hill, the ancient name of which is Tutnall, but is now called Oakfields, and which, although doubtless of ancient British origin, was most probably the signal station of the Romans in that locality.

The last battle of Caractacus (prior to which Togodumnus had been killed in a battle with the Romans) was with Ostorius, and took place, according to Mr. Murchison's opinion, (as stated in his *Geological Work*,* and delineated in his *Map on the Silurian System*) at Stow, in Shropshire, which place lies near to Leintwardine, on the Teme. This last-mentioned place is supposed to have been the Roman station called Branogenium; but the Rev. C. H. Hartshorne (as stated by Mr. Murchison) considers that this last battle was fought at the Breidden Hills, upon the bank of the Severn.

Bevere Island lies between four and five miles north of the city of Worcester.

* See Vol. I., pages xxxi. and xxxii.

THE HILLS.

I SHALL now attempt to give some account of the origin of the names of several of the hills* which I have previously noticed, and in so doing shall illustrate the subject principally from Mr. Bryant's work on Ancient Mythology, Vol. I., quarto edition of 1774, and also describe such antiquities of these elevations as have come under my notice.

Our first range will be the beautiful chain on the western side of the county, lying about four or five miles from, and running parallel with the Severn, on the right side of it, namely, the Malvern, Old Storage, Ankerdine, Berrow, Woodbury, and Abberley Hills; and then advert to the Tot or Teut Hills on the eastern or left side of the Severn, and respectively lying about two miles from it, namely, Cruckbarrow, Elbury, and Tutnall; the first of which faces Great Malvern and Old Storage Hills; the second, Ankerdine Hill; and the last fronts the Berrow, Woodbury, and Abberley Hills. Towbury Hill Camp, before described, faces the camp on Little Malvern Hill; but these two last do not strictly belong to Worcestershire, being just without the border.

The whole of this chain has been very fully described in a geological point of view, by R. I. Murchison, Esq., in his work on the Silurian System; and also referred to in my pamphlet on the Old Red Sandstone of Worcestershire and Herefordshire, published in 1835.†

* Should I be wrong in any of these derivations, the attempt may perhaps lead others to a further investigation of the subject.

† That pamphlet was written when I was a very young geologist, principally to endeavour to prove that the remarkable circular and semi-circular marks in the old red sandstone of that locality were impressions made by mammalia, but I must have been wrong in that respect, if the principle laid down by most geologists be true, that mammalia were not in existence at the time of the deposition of such sandstone.

MALVERN HILLS.

THESE truly noble and beautiful elevations probably took their name from Melech, one of the titles of Ham, Cham, and Chus.* “Melech, or as it is sometimes expressed, Malech and Moloch, betokens a king; as does Malecha a queen. It was a title of old given to many deities in Greece; but in aftertimes grew obsolete, and misunderstood, whence it was often changed to *μελιχος* and *μελιχιος*, which signified the gentle, sweet, and benign deity. Pausanius tells us that Jupiter was styled *Μελιχιος*, both in Attica and at Argos; and in another part of his work he speaks of this deity under the same title, in company with Artemis at Sicyon.”†

“Rivers often had the name of Melech. There was one in Babylonia, generally expressed Nahar Malcha, or the Royal Stream: these, too, were often by the Grecians changed to *Μελιχοι*. The foregoing writer gives an instance in a river of Achaia. Malaga, in Spain, was properly Malacha, the Royal City. I take the name of Amalek to have been Ham Melech abbreviated: a title taken by the Amalekites from the head of their family. In like manner I imagine Malchom, the god of the Sidonians, to have been a contraction of Malech Chom, *βασιλεως Ἡλιος*:—a title give to the sun; but conferred also upon the chief of the Amonian family.”‡

In a treatise entitled “Identity of the Religions called Druidical and Hebrew,” published in 1829, it is stated, in page 33, that Cæsar, in his Commentaries, Lib. VI., “evidently alluded to the worship of the god Mallach or Moloch, to whose deity the Druids kindled large fires about Midsummer, and with the people leaped through them;” and in page 32 of the same book it is said: “Moloch appears to have been but an epithet or name for Baal, and is in the Old Testament always

* Bryant, page 2.

† Bryant, page 70.

‡ Bryant, page 71.

included in the word Baalim. The priests of Moloch walked through the fires they lighted in honour of their god as a sort of lustration; after having slain the animal for the sacrifice, they, taking the entrails in their hands, walked thrice through the fires. As Bel was the title given to the sun on the first day of spring, so Moloch appears to have been his title on the first day in autumn, when his heats were supposed to be the greatest, and when, after the vernal beauties of the new year, the time approached in which the sun was ripening, with a more direct ray, the kindly fruits of the earth. It was then that the Jews adored him as Moloch; it was then that they passed themselves and their children through the fires to him in thankful gratitude for the benefits he was bestowing."

Bryant, in page 2 and 45, says Bel, Bal, or Baal, is a Babylonish title appropriated to the sun; and made use of by the Amonians in other countries, particularly in Syria and Canaan. It signified *Κυριος*, or Lord, and is often found compounded with other terms, as in Bel-Adon,* Belorus, Bal-hamon, Belochus, Bel-on (from which last came Bellona of the Romans), and also Baal-Shamaim, the great lord of the heavens.

Dr. Nash, in Vol. II., page 121 of his History, says the name of Malvern is probably derived from the British word Moel, signifying bald, and Wern, alders, importing a bald hill, with alders at the bottom; and cited Kennet's Parochial Antiquities, page 684, and Thomas's Antiquities of Malvern thereon,—or rather he said from Moel, which in British signifies a mountain; and he referred to Lluyd's Arch. Britan., page 93, and Dav. Diction. upon the subject. But I submit that Moel is most probably a compound word composed of Mo., an abbreviation of Moloch, and El., the latter of which words was the name of many of the Heathen deities, as will presently appear under the head Elbury. Therefore, according to this interpretation, the word Mo-El means the god Moloch.

* The name of Bel-Broughton, before referred to, may have been derived as above

A Roman coin, said to be of Vespasian, was found a few years back on the east side of the Worcestershire Beacon of Malvern Hill, near Saint Ann's Well, in a cavity which had been made by the sheep ; and a large Roman coin was lately presented to the Museum which was found by a gravel digger, about five years ago, near the road at the north end of the hill, three or four feet deep in the detrital matter which had in the course of time rolled down the hill. On the obverse there is a portrait without the iron crown, but the inscription is gone. The reverse contains a fine figure of a horse at full speed, with a warrior upon it apparently in the act of striking with a spear.

Dr. Nash, in Vol. II. of his History, page 139, says : " In the Link, in the parish of Malvern, was lately found, many feet under ground, a celt, weighing ten ounces, about five inches and a half long, of a mixed metal between brass and copper, with a small ring or loop, as here engraved ; it has a beautiful patina upon it."

I have given a sketch of this celt in Plate II., figure 16. A similar one is set forth in Camden, Vol. I., Page CCVI. Montfaucon, in Vol. III., Part II., page 339, has given a drawing of a Greek or Roman hatchet very like the above.

King, in his *Munimenta Antiqua*, Vol. I., page 17, (as quoted in pages 64 and 65, of a little work published in 1814, entitled " Reflections relating to the Malvern Hills,") speaks as follows respecting the camp on the Herefordshire Beacon, Little Malvern Hill : " There are a vast number of strong intrenchments in all parts of this island of a very peculiar kind, situated chiefly on the tops of natural hills, and which can be attributed to none of the various people who have ever dwelt in the adjacent country, except to the Ancient Britons ; although indeed the subsequent conquerors, Romans, Saxons, Danes, and even the Normans, have on certain emergencies made use of them, on account of their great original strength. One of the most important and considerable is situated in a spot that could not but be an object of the utmost attention to the original inhabitants of those territories, which afterwards

were deemed distinctly England and Wales. This is the Herefordshire Beacon, commanding that which was once the only pass through the Malvern ridge of hills, and which, indeed, is very nearly so to the present hour."

Beyond the camp, to the south, there is a smaller intrenchment.

Dr. Nash has described this camp, in Vol. II., page 141, of his History, under the head of "Little Malvern," as follows: "This little parish is a retired romantic spot, lying on the eastern side of the hill, and running up to its summit, where is a camp, with a treble ditch, an exact plan of which is here given for the amusement of the curious. Some have imagined it Roman, because of the *prætorium*, or centre part, and the name of the parish in which the greater part of it is situated, Collwall, that is, *Collis Vallum*. Some Roman remains in Herefordshire are called *Walles*, and Severus's Wall in the north is called *Gual Sever*, or *Vallum Severi*. But the shape of this camp doth not show it to be Roman, though I know not to what age to attribute it, as it is not mentioned by any author I know of, either in print or MS. It was certainly prior to the partition trench before mentioned, which divides the counties of Worcester and Hereford; for the outward trench of the camp serves for part of this ditch.

"Within the distance of a musket-shot of the trenches of the camp, in the parish of Colwall, in Herefordshire, was found, in the year 1650, by Thomas Tayler, near Burstners Cross, as he was digging a ditch round his cottage, a coronet, or bracelet of gold, set with precious stones, of a size to be drawn over the arm and sleeve. It was sold to Mr. Hill, a goldsmith in Gloucester, for thirty-seven pounds; Hill sold it to a jeweller in Lombard Street, London, for two hundred and fifty pounds, and the jeweller sold the stones, which were deeply inlaid, for fifteen hundred pounds, as Mr. Clough, of Lombard Street, reported.* The register of Colwall has been searched, and I find that Thomas Tayler lived there about that time; and when his death is entered, there is a mark put to his name, as if something memorable had happened to him."

* "MS. in Jesus College Library, Oxford."

The Rev. Dr. Card, Vicar of Great Malvern, in his work entitled "A Dissertation on the subject of the Herefordshire Beacon," has adduced several reasons for believing that this camp was the work of the brave Caractacus, and says in page 40 as follows :—" If Roman coins should be discovered in any part of the work, they would merely indicate that these invaders occupied it at some period, which is by no means improbable, notwithstanding the non-existence of any Roman road in the neighbourhood. On the other hand, the coronet of gold, mentioned by Camden, as having been dug up about a musket-shot on the north-west side, in the parish of Colwall, A.D. 1650, cannot be admitted as any proof of the period at which, or the persons by whom, the fortifications were primarily constructed. It is however an incontrovertible fact, that the country between the Wye and the Severn was the theatre of continual intestine wars, in times subsequent to the Roman invasion, and that the Welsh princes wore coronets of a similar shape, as the following extracts from the History of Wales, by Caradoc of Langarvan, translated by the erudite Dr. Powell, will sufficiently demonstrate: ' Roderic, King of Wales, divided his kingdom between his three sons, and because they (each) wore a coronet of gold indented upwards and inlaid with precious stones on their helmets, they were called the three crowned princes.' About A.D. 877. These chieftains were finally driven to the country beyond the Wye by Athelstan, between the years 924 and 939, consequently the ornament must have been lost at some period anterior to the latter date."

As the Roman camps are "generally square or oblong, with the angles sometimes obtuse or rounded off,"* and as the camp in question (like the one on Bredon Hill, in Kemerton,†) is of a rather triangular shape, it is probable that it is Ancient British, and that it was in after ages occupied by the Romans, Saxons, and Danes.

* Vide "Bennett's History of Tewkesbury," page 16.

† It is to be feared that the young trees which have been lately planted in the trenches of the Kemerton Camp will in the course of time completely destroy the appearance of the camp.

In proof that Bredon Hill was occupied by the Romans, Mr. May, in his History of Evesham, page 249, says: "It is further to be remarked, respecting the Roman occupation of the above hill, that it abounds with copious and unfailing springs: that a vast number of coins, of the higher as well as lower empire, have during late years been ploughed up there; among such of which as the present writer has met with occur those of Vespasian, Severus, Gallienus, Constantine, and Valentinian. As matter of information, we take this opportunity to add, that upon deepening the channel of the brook at Sedgeberrow, not far distant from this hill, two oval-shaped spear-heads of bronze, of perfect workmanship, with portions of staves attached, were found stuck into the bank, at a depth of several feet. Many portions of Roman defensive armour were at the same time found: of which, the steel shoulder-pieces of a cuirass, thickly studded with brazen rivets, (together with the spear-heads as above,) are now in the possession of the Rev. William Pashley."

Mr. Bennett, in his History of Tewkesbury, page 17, also says: "In the neighbourhood of these" (i.e., the Kemerton and Conderton) "camps, especially near the latter, a number of Roman coins have at various times been discovered."

OLD STORAGE.

WITH respect to the name of this beautiful promontory or headland, it is most probably derived from Tar, Tor, or Tarit. The Amonians in the early ages built obelisks and towers, either upon artificial mounds or upon natural eminences, and called them Tar, and Tor, which signified in their language, and that of the Chaldees, both a hill and tower. They were oftentimes compounded, and styled Tor-is, or fire towers, on account of the light which they exhibited, and the fires which were preserved in them.* And Turit, or Tirit, signified a tower or turret.†

* Bryant, pages 399 and 400.

† Bryant, page 404.

This being the principal and perhaps the most anciently named hill in that locality, was probably in after ages called Old Torit, or Torage, in contradistinction to other minor Tors in the vicinity; and there is a hill called the Tar or Tor Coppice at the foot of it. The S added at the beginning of the word is a common vulgarism of the country. Old Storage is situated in the hamlet of Alfrick, in Suckley parish. The views from it are particularly fine; no less than six or seven counties have been frequently pointed out to me from the summit, called the Beck.

If Sir Henry Spelman was right in his conjecture (vide the additions to Camden) that St. Augustine's Oak* stood in Alfrick, I should think, from the known predilection and good taste of the ecclesiastics in the primitive ages for commanding situations and beautiful scenery, that the oak grew on the top of Old Storage; and until within these last ten or twelve years the skeleton of a very ancient oak did stand close to the Beck farm-house, near the top of the hill, and which is within half a field's length of the modern Beck oak, which grows quite upon the pinnacle.

It is well known that the primitive Christians generally carried on their worship at those temples and places which had been previously used by the Ancient Britons for the like purpose. There is a slight trench which runs across the top of the common, from east to west, close by where the ancient oak stood.

ALFRICK.

BRYANT, in page 2, after enumerating the titles of Ham, Cham, and Chus, says the particles **Al** and **Pi** were in use

* It is said that the conference of St. Augustine, the apostle of the English, with the British bishops, took place under the celebrated oak that bears his name, during the Saxon Heptarchy, in A.D. 603. At this meeting it was intended to settle some disputes relative to the observance of Easter, &c.; but after much discussion no conclusion was arrived at, and both parties separated mutually dissatisfied.

among the ancient Egyptians; and in page 118 he says: "Al or El, for it is differently expressed in our characters, is still an Arabian prefix, but not absolutely confined to that country, though more frequently there to be found. The sun, **𐤀𐤋**, was called Uchor by the people of Egypt and Cyrene; which the Greeks expressed Αχως , Achor. He was worshipped with the same title in Arabia, and called Al Achor. Georgius Monachus, describing the idolatry which prevailed in that country before the introduction of the present religion, mentions the idol Alachar."

We probably have in the names of Storage and Alfrick* proofs that the one was a place of worship of the Amonites, and the other the general residence of such people in that locality.

With respect to the particle **Pi**, there is a parish called Pirton in this county, situated about two miles south of Cruckbarrow Hill; and a place called Piri (vulgo Perry) Wood, which is situated on the east side of Worcester, and about a mile northward of Cruckbarrow.

ANKERDINE HILL.

THIS hill, which was formerly called Ancredham,† and now corruptly Ankerden or Ankerdine, was probably named from Anac, one of the titles of Ham,‡ joined with his name. "Anac was a title of high antiquity, and seems to have been originally appropriated to persons of great strength and stature. Such people in the plural were styled Anakim; and one family of them were to be found at Kirjath-Arba. Some of them were likewise among the Caphtorim who settled in Palestine. Pausanias represents Asterion, whose tomb is said

* Dr. Nash says Alfrick was anciently called Alferwyke and Alfredeswic. Vide Vol. II., page 399.

† Vide Nash's History, Vol. II., page 68.

‡ Bryant, page 2.

to have been discovered in Lydia, as a son of Anac, and of an enormous size.”*

The original name therefore of this hill was in my opinion Anac-Ham.

The intermediate space between the spot in question and Old Storage is filled up with a chain called the Suckley and Hall House Hills; and one of them, called the Round Hill, in Alfrick, has a very tumulus-like appearance. The scenery from Ankerdine Hill is very fine, and much enriched by the beautiful meanderings of the Teme. It is situated in the chapelry of Dodenham,† in the parish of Knightwick. At the south end of the hill the Teme passes, and on the opposite side of the river there is a remarkable conglomerate, vulgarly called Rosebury or Rosemary Rock, the real name of it being Osebury.

THE BERROW HILL.

THE ancient name of this noble conical elevation, which lies in the parish of Martley, no doubt was either Burrow,‡ which in the Saxon means a place fenced or fortified, or Barrow, meaning an ancient place of sepulture. It is of a fine oval form, and although a natural hill, its sides were evidently pared down by the aborigines of our island to its present shape. There are two lines of intrenchment round the brow of the hill, which show it to be the site of an ancient camp. These trenches I first noticed in the year 1835, and they are still perfect in some parts, particularly at the north and south ends of the oval. Judging from a measure which I lately made by footsteps, the camp is about four hundred yards long, and one hundred and ninety yards wide. This hill might in the

* Bryant, page 72.

† The term Dodenham is most probably derived from Dedan, the great-grandson of Ham and grandson of Cush, Cuth, or Chus; making the word Dedan-Ham.

‡ The Saxons generally applied this term to those places which had been fortified by their predecessors.

earliest times have been a Barrow, and afterwards a Burrow, and by way of pre-eminence called "The Barrow Hill," as it is, I should think, as large if not larger than anything of the kind in the kingdom.

I do not find that Dr. Nash has noticed the camp or even the hill in his History of the County; nor has the camp been noticed by any other writer that I am aware of.

WOODBURY HILL.

THIS hill is commonly called Oubbury: that probably was its most ancient name, and derived from Ob or Oub,* the names of the serpent deity, and Bury, or Burrow. "The worship of the serpent began among the people of Chaldea. They built the city Opis upon the Tigris, and were greatly addicted to divination and to the worship of the serpent." "From Chaldea the worship passed into Egypt, where the serpent deity was called Can-oph, Can-eph, and C'neph. It had also the name of Ob, or Oub, and was the same as the Basiliscus, or Royal Serpent."† Dr. Nash, in speaking of this hill, says: "In the parish of Great Witley, the river Teme passeth under Woodbury Hill, remarkable for an old intrenchment on the top, commonly called Owen Glyndwr's Camp,‡ but which probably is of more remote antiquity." "The top of the bank on Woodbury Hill contains twenty-six acres two roods and twenty-seven perches; and if the dimensions be extended to the centre of the ditch, it would measure at least two acres more. This hill is distant from Wassal Camp, in the parish of Kidderminster, about eight miles, and from Kenvaur Edge about eleven."§

* Bryant, page 473.

† Bryant, page 478.

‡ Vide a very interesting account of this chieftain in "The Analyst" Quarterly Journal for March 1835, Vol. II., No. VIII., page 73, entitled Kenchurch Court, Herefordshire, by Sir Samuel Rush Meyrick, K.H.

§ Vide Vol. II., page 465. The Doctor also gives a plan of the camp, facing page 466.

ABBERLEY HILL.

THIS hill was probably named from Ab, one of the titles of Ham, Cham, and Chus,* and Ley. "Ab signifies a father, similar to אב of the Hebrews. It is often found in composition, as in Ab-El, Ab-On, Ab-Or."†

With respect to the etymology of the word Ley, Sir William Dugdale says it "is very often used for terminating the names of several villages. If we ascend to the British for its original, we shall find *ile* in that language to be the same with *locus* in Latin; but if to the Saxon, *leƿ* there signifieth ground untilled."‡

In the Conqueror's survey the word Abberley is written Edboldelege. (Vide Domesday, Table IX.)

Dr. Nash, in his account of Woodbury Hill, states that he never could find any marks of intrenchments on Abberley Hill. Both these elevations are said to be nine hundred feet above the level of the sea.

There is a parish called Abberton on the east side of the county.

CRUCKBARROW HILL.

THIS conical hill was most probably named from Cuclopes, or Cyclopes,§ and Barrow, and originally, in abbreviation, called Cuc||-Barrow, meaning a high place for heathen worship, and

* Vide Bryant, page 2.

† Vide Bryant, page 12.

‡ Vide Nash's History, Vol. II.; Appendix, page 1; but the last above letter, called Saxon, appears to be Anglo-Norman.

§ Bryant, page 491.

|| The Welsh word Crug, which signifies a hill, was probably derived from this.

also a place for sepulture. "The gigantic Cyclopes were originally Ophitæ, who worshipped the symbolical serpent."* "Among the many tribes of the Amonians which went abroad, were to be found people who were styled Anakim, and were descended from the sons of Anac; so that this history, though carried to a great excess, was probably founded in truth. They were particularly famous for architecture, which they introduced into Greece, as we are told by Herodotus; and in all parts whither they came they erected noble structures, which were remarkable for their height and beauty, and were often dedicated to the chief deity, the sun, under the name of Elorus, and P'elorus. People were so struck with their grandeur, that they called every thing great and stupendous Pelorian; and when they described the Cyclopians as a lofty towering race, they came at last to borrow their ideas of this people from the towers, to which they alluded. They supposed them in height to reach to the clouds, and in bulk to equal the promontories on which they were founded."† "The Cyclopiian deity was Ouranus, and the Cyclopians were his priests and votaries, some of whom had divine honours paid to them, and were esteemed as gods."‡ The Arimaspians were Hyperborean Cyclopians, and had temples named Charis, or Charisia, in the top of which was preserved a perpetual fire. They were of the same family as those of Sicily, and had the same rites, and particularly worshipped the Ophite deity, under the name of Opis. Aristeas Proconnesius wrote their history, and among other things mentioned that they had but one eye, which was placed in their graceful forehead."§ "How could the front of a Cyclopiian, one of the most hideous monsters that ever poetic fancy framed, be styled graceful? The whole is a mistake in terms; and what this writer had misapplied, related to Charis, a tower; and the eye was the casement in the top of the edifice, where a light and fire were kept up. What confirmed the mistake was the representation of an eye, which, as I have mentioned, was often engraved

* Bryant, page 492.

‡ Bryant, pages 496 and 497.

† Bryant, pages 494 and 495.

§ Bryant, page 499.

over the entrance of these temples. The chief deity of Egypt was frequently represented under the symbol of an eye and a sceptre.”* “I imagine that not only the common idea of the Cyclopians was taken from towers and edifices, but that the term *Κυκλωψ* and *Κυκλωπις*, Cuclops and Cuclopis, signified a building or temple; and from thence the people had their name. They were of the same family as the Cadmians and Phœnices, and as the Hivites, or Ophites, who came from Egypt, and settled near Libanus and Baal Hermon, upon the confines of Canaan. They worshipped the sun under the symbol of a serpent; hence they were styled in different parts where they in time settled, Europeans, Oropians, Anopians, Inopians, Asopians, Elopian; all which names relate to the worship of the Pytho Ops, or Opis. What may be the precise etymology of the term *Κυκλωψ*, Cuclops, I cannot presume to determine. Cuclops, as a personage, was said to have been the son of Ouranus and the earth; which Ouranus, among the Amonians, was often styled Coel, or Coelus, and was worshipped under the forementioned emblem of a serpent. Hence the temple of the deity may have been originally called Cu-Coel-Ops, Domus Coeli Pythonis, and the priests and people Cucelopians. But whatever may have been the purport of the name, the history of these personages is sufficiently determinate.”†

Upon a perusal of these extracts, may we not be strongly led to believe that those stupendous temples, the relics of which appear to this day in various parts of the kingdom, such as Stonehenge, Abury, &c., were built by the Cyclopians, wherein they carried on their worship of the sun, or fire, and of the serpent, either as deities or as symbols of their deities, and used the vicinity as barrows. The Rev. W. L. Bowles, in his work entitled “Hermes Britannicus,” published in 1828, and the author of the before-mentioned work on the “Identity of the Religions called Druidical and Hebrew,” have brought forward many facts and arguments to show that

* Bryant, page 500.

† Bryant, pages 507 and 508.

such kind of worship was extensively practised by the Druids* of our island.

But to return more immediately to Cruckbarrow. This hill, I must repeat, was most probably an ancient British Barrow, as well as a place of Cyclopiian worship. It is situated between two and three miles south-east of Worcester, in the hamlet of Whittington, in St. Peter's parish. The Romans very likely used it as a watch or signal station, as it overlooks and would defend the south-eastern side of Worcester, and also the camp at Kempsey, and is nearly opposite to Powick. It is of an elliptical shape, and measures five hundred and twelve yards round, within the ring fence at the base, and about one hundred and eighty yards round the crown.† It is said to contain about six acres of land. The elevation is considerable. I consider this was partly a natural hill, and that it had a tail, lying eastward, which was pared down, together with any other excrescences, and the materials placed upon the head. The sides are sloped as even as a sugar-loaf, and are covered with a fine green turf. The ends of the oval stand east and west. If Cruckbarrow was measured round at the foot of the more gentle slopes it would amount to nearly double the above quantity.

At Spetchley, about two miles north-east of Cruckbarrow, and three miles from Worcester, near the seat of the Spetchley line of the ancient family of the Berkeleys, there is another circular elevation of the same kind, called the Round Hill: it is partly surrounded by a trench, and quite in view of Cruckbarrow. According to the admeasurements which I have made, Cruckbarrow Hill is rather larger than Silbury Hill, in Wiltshire; but both of them are mere molehills in comparison with the Berrow Hill, in Martley.

* Although the Druids in public apparently worshipped several deities, yet it is generally considered that they had but one god, whom they worshipped under various forms, conditions, and attributes.

† Also vide Ambrose Florence, page 117; and Nash, Vol. II., page 327.

ELBURY HILL.

THIS hill was probably named from El, one of the titles of Ham, Cham, and Chus ;* and Bury or Burrow.

“El, Al, Ηλ, sometimes expressed Eli, was the name of the true God ; but by the Zabians was transferred to the sun : whence the Greeks borrowed their ‘Ηλιος, and Ηελιος. El and Elion were titles by which the people of Canaan distinguished their chief deity.”† “The Canaanitish term Elion is a compound of Eli-On, both titles of the sun : hence the former is often joined with Aur and Orus. Elorus and Alorus were names both of persons and places. It is sometimes combined with Cham : whence we have Camillus and Camulus, under which name the deity of the Gentile world was in many places worshipped.”‡ “The deity El was particularly invoked by the eastern nations when they made an attack in battle ; at such time they used to cry out El-El and Al-Al. This Mahomet could not well bring his proselytes to leave off, and therefore changed it to Allah, which the Turks at this day make use of when they shout in joining battle. It was however an idolatrous invocation, originally made to the god of war, and not unknown to the Greeks.”§

Elbury Hill lies about a mile and a half to the east of Worcester, in the parish of Claines ; and there is the site of an oblong square camp at the top of it. In fact all the upper part of the hill is of that shape. The sides of the hill are very regularly sloped, and the corners beautifully rounded. From a measure which I lately made by footsteps, the camp appears to be about two hundred yards long on the northern side, one

* Bryant, page 2.

† Bryant, page 13.

‡ Bryant, page 14.

§ Bryant, pages 15 and 16 : and in page 95, he says Caph, Cap, and Cephas, signify a rock ; and also any promontory or headland. As temples used to be built upon eminences of this sort, we find this word often compounded with the titles of the deity there worshipped, as Caph-El, Caph-El-On,” &c. Now it is rather singular that the peasantry of Worcestershire call any high or monstrous looking animal or thing a great Caph-El to this day.

hundred on the eastern, one hundred on the southern, and one hundred and fifty on the western side. Within these few years it has been planted with gorse to feed cattle with, when cut and ground, and it is at present covered with it. This camp completely overlooked and would defend the city, and was an excellent signal station to communicate with Ostorius's Fort on the west, Tutnall on the north, Cruckbarrow on the south, and the Round Hill at Spetchley on the east side of it.

Although the name of this hill is of much greater antiquity than the time of the Romans, yet it is very probable that it was occupied by them, and the camp altered to suit their taste. The Roman jar and coins found about two miles therefrom, at Bredicot, as before described, appear to corroborate this idea.

I do not find that any of our writers have at all noticed Elbury Hill Camp.* This was a great oversight, as it appears to have been the very key-stone of all the ancient bulwarks of the town and its vicinity: in fact, a large fire on this very central elevation would be seen at almost every part of the county, and I should think it was the station of the Arch-Druid of this region; for there is not another spot in the county which so completely commands every part of it.

Ambrose Florence, in pages 17 and 18 of his work, also speaks of the intrenchments at Lepard (or Lippard) Hill, Ronkswood, and Perry Wood. These hills are in a line from near Elbury Hill to within about a mile of Cruckbarrow, and lie in St. Martin's parish. The trenches or cross cuts on Lepard Hill and Ronkswood were most probably made or altered in Cromwell's time, as his army lay in those parts before the great battle. A sword, conjectured to be of that period, was a few years back found in an old hedge, which (upon the clearing out of a small pool) slipped down the bank of one of these trenches. This hedge is situated on the west side of Lepard Hill, in a meadow called Pike Field. The

* Except that Ambrose Florence, in pages 130 and 131 of his work, speaks of the "very artificial appearance" of Helbury Hill. There is a spring of water near the centre of the top of the eastern slope of this hill, by the way side into the camp, which no doubt supplied the occupants of the camp.

sword (which has been presented to the Museum) is long and two-edged, and was, as appears by the shape of the handle, made for thrusting. These instruments were perhaps used at the trenches to ward off any attacks of cavalry.

The probable Roman trench road, which I have before noticed as lying in the meadow called King's Hill, at the north end of Perry Wood, is of considerable depth, and at the top or east end it runs in shape like the letter Y, with the foot pointing towards Worcester, one arm towards Cruckbarrow, and the other towards Elbury Hill. There is also a rather deep cut in the next piece of ground northward, called the Fox Pit Field, and another just within the south end of Perry Wood; but I cannot say whether these two last are artificial or not.

ASTWOOD

Is a hamlet or tithing, in the parish of Claines, adjoining to Elbury Hill. "Ast, Asta, Esta, signified fire, and also the deity of that element. The Greeks expressed it *Ἑστία*, and the Romans Vesta. Plutarch, speaking of the sacred water of Numicius being discovered by the priestesses of this deity, calls them the Virgins of Hestia. Esta and Asta signified also a sacred hearth. In early times every district was divided according to the number of the sacred hearths, each of which constituted a community or parish. They were in different parts styled Puratheia, Empureia, Prutaneia, and Prætoria; also Phratrîai, and Apaturia; but the most common name was Asta. These were all places of general rendezvous for people of the same community. Here were kept up perpetual fires; and places of this sort were made use of for courts of judicature, where the laws of the country, *θεμισαι*, were explained and enforced. Hence Homer, speaking of a person not worthy of the rights of society, calls him *Ἀφέντως, ἀθεμιστός, ἀνεσίος*."*

* Vide Bryant, pages 62 and 63.

After reading this passage from Bryant, does it not appear that we have in the above locality a most remarkable chain of evidence that Amonians were located there? Elbury Hill appears to have been their place of worship, and perhaps also of strength, and sepulture; and Astwood, or Estwood, the land lying at the north side of the hill, and running up to the foot of it, was the sacred hearth or place of general rendezvous of the same community. The name of Astley, Eslei, or Estley parish, which lies at the foot of Abberley Hill, on the east side, was most probably similarly derived; and also the name of White Lady Aston, or Eston (lying within two miles of Cruckbarrow Hill, and about the same distance from the Round Hill, at Spetchley); and of Aston or Eston township, in Blockley parish; and of Ast Lench, in Church Lench; and of Astwood, near Feckenham.

The name of the cardinal point, called the East, was probably derived from the above word, Esta, or fire, on account of its pointing towards the rising sun.

TUTNALL, ALIAS OAKFIELDS.

THE name of this elevation was probably derived from Tith: "When towns were situated upon eminences, fashioned very round, they were by the Amonians called Tith, which answers to תִּת in Hebrew, and to *τιτθον* and *τιτθος* in Greek. They were particularly sacred to Orus and Osiris, the deities of light, who by the Grecians were represented under the title of Apollo"* "These mounts were generally formed by art, being composed of earth, raised very high, which was sloped gradually and with great exactness, and the top of all was crowned with a fair tower."†

Or it may have been derived from "Theuth, Thoth, Taut, Taautes, which are the same title diversified, and belong to the chief god of Egypt. Eusebius speaks of him as the same

* Bryant, page 417.

† Bryant, page 419.

as Hermes. From Theuth the Greeks formed $\Theta\epsilon\omicron\varsigma$, which, with that nation, was the most general name of the deity."*
 "It was the same deity which the Germans and Celtæ worshipped under the name of Theut-Ait, or Theutates, whose sacrifices were very cruel, as we learn from Lucan."†

This hill is in the parish of Claines, and lies about three miles north of Worcester. It overlooks and would defend Bevere and the northern side of Worcester, and would communicate by signals with the camp at Ombersley and Ostorius's Fort, and also with Elbury Hill.

WASSAL HILL, KENVAUR EDGE,

AND

WICHBURY HILL.

IN the preceding accounts I have traced the antiquities of the county from the extreme south to nearly the north side of it, particularly in the line of the Severn. The north side I have not had an opportunity of examining; but Dr. Nash has given some information as to the antiquities thereof, in his description of the above hills, and of Over Arley, which I subjoin.‡

In his account of the parish of Kidderminster, Vol. II., page 46, he says: "On Wassal Hill, about half a mile from the banks of the Severn, are the remains of a small station or camp; it lies about four or five miles west of a larger camp on Kenvaur Edge. About the same distance east of Kenvaur Edge, on Wichbury Hill, there was another. These probably were the posts of Henry IV., when he blocked up Owen Glyndwr after the burning of Worcester, 1405. See Monstrelet, c. 5; and Hall's Chron., pages 18 and 19."

* Bryant, page 11.

† Bryant, page 12.

‡ There is also a hill of some magnitude called Stagbury, between Abberley and Stourport, which is very steep on the declivity fronting the Severn, the passage of which river it completely commands.

OVER ARLEY.

IN the Appendix to Vol. II., page 1, he quotes Bishop Lyttleton's account of the antiquities of Over Arley (which parish is not in Worcestershire but Staffordshire ; it abuts however upon the border). The account is as follows :—

“ Some considerable Roman antiquities occur within the bounds of this manor. On the eastern limits I find an ancient road called the Portway (a name common to Roman vicinal ways throughout the kingdom), which probably led from Brannogenium (Worcester) to Uriconium (Wroxeter), and is at this day the post road from Worcester to Shrewsbury ; which latter rose out of the ruins of the ancient Uriconium. In Wulfruna's grant of this manor to the church of Hampton (from her entitled Wolverhampton), the metes and bounds thereof are particularly described ; among which, one is denominated *Strate*, or the street, by which the Saxons generally meant a Roman road or highway ; and this doubtless was the same with the present portway.

“ A large Roman camp also remains here, situated in Arley Wood, being nearly an exact square, with double, and on one side treble ditches. It was probably the work of Ostorius, who fortified many places near and upon the banks of the Severn, during his conflicts with the Silures and Ordovices. Query too, if Castle Field, on the west side of the river, but within the manor of Arley, was not thus named from the Romans encamping there ; as no ruins of a castle, or any tradition of there ever having been one here, remains.”

Although my principal object has been the discovering and describing of specimens and relics of the antiquities of the county, rather than trusting to the derivation of the names of the places where they were found, yet it must be admitted that in many instances they strongly illustrate, and in others absolutely confirm, the meaning and date or age of each other.

ADDENDA.

ELDERSFIELD AND THE BERROW.

IN the note relative to the Mythe Tute,* in page 27, I stated that there is a remarkable elevation in Eldersfield, called Gadbury Banks, and a tumulus in Castle Morton, surrounded by a ditch. Since then, I have, in company with Mr. Edwin Lees,† seen both those places.

Gadbury is situated in the centre of what may be called a fine amphitheatre. It is about sixty feet high, and of an irregular oblong square shape, slightly rounded at the corners. Judging from a measure we made by footsteps round the platform or top of the hill, it is about three hundred and sixty yards long on the south-east side, two hundred and thirty on the south-west side, three hundred and ninety on the north-west side, one hundred and thirty on the north-east side, and one hundred and twelve across the centre. The top is a dead level, and was covered with standing corn at the time of our visit. The sides are very steep and thickly covered with wood, except on the south-west and part of the south-east sides. It is admirably situated as a place of refuge, ambush, and strength, being in the centre of a basin, and quite detached from all the surrounding elevations. Looking at it from a distance, no one would suppose that there is any land free from wood at the top. The hills within a few miles of it are the Malvern Hills, May Hill, Conygree Hill, Hartpury Hill, Corse Grove, &c. It appears to have had an immense tail lying eastward, which was cut away, except the extreme point, and that was probably left as an outwork. There is a trench entrance along the site of the tail into the platform on the north-east side, and another smaller one at

* Within about a mile of that tumulus there is a hill called Sarn, perhaps a corruption of the word Tarn or Tan.

† The author of the work called "Ambrose Florence."

the north-west corner. It is thought to be the site of one of the Ancient British towns, and being quite hid from view corresponds with what Cæsar said respecting them. This property belongs to Sir Anthony Lechmere, Bart.

There is a road which runs near this hill in a line pointing towards the Herefordshire Beacon Camp, and part of it, for about half a mile, in the parish of the Berrow, is called the Pendock Portway. This is crossed at one end by the Tewkesbury and Ledbury road.

BROMSBERROW.

We also visited that remarkable hill in this parish which lies in Gloucestershire, but is upon the border of Worcestershire, called Conygree, perhaps so denominated from its being a fine harbour for rabbits. The soil is of the new red sandstone formation, into which they can easily draw. This elevation lies near the church; is of an oval form, and about fifty feet high. Judging from a measure we made by foot-steps, it is about seven hundred yards round the base. There is a very ancient yew tree at the top, which measures twenty-five feet round the stem, at about a yard from the ground. The whole of the hill is planted with trees. The ascent is by a path which winds round the hill from the south side, in the direction against the sun to the top. A trench encircles the apex, into which the winding path runs. It is thought to have been a hill altar where the Druids held an annual assembly for judicial and other purposes. It might also, although only partially artificial, have been used as a Barrow, in like manner as I have before suggested with respect to the Berrow Hill in Martley, and Cruckbarrow Hill.

CASTLE MORTON.

We also examined the tumulus in this chapelry, which is of an oval form, and is situated near the chapel, not far from Buddenhill. From a footstep measure it appears to be about one hundred and ninety yards round the base, and thirty yards along the top. There is a deep trench round the south side of it, and a vallum fourteen yards across. It is called Castle Tump, and was most probably the foundation of the keep of an ancient castle which is said to have stood there.*

TEWKESBURY.

In page 12 I quoted Mr. Bennett's History of the above place relative to the finding of Roman coins in Oldbury Gardens: since then I have seen, in Mr. Dudfield's collection in that town, an earthen pan, most probably Roman, and a jug of the same material with a handle, which, when found, contained a coin of Septimus Severus. These were discovered in the above gardens by the railway excavators.

CLEEVE PRIOR.

Since the account of the antiquities of the above place, in page 37, &c, I have been there, and saw, at the Rev. R. D. Stillingfleet's, two more coins, which came out of the urns, not previously noticed by me, belonging to Mr. T. B. Tomes of that village, namely, a gold one of Arcadius, and a silver one of Vespasian; likewise another silver coin which I could not decipher. I also saw Thomas Sheppey, the finder of the urns and coins, who informed me that the quantity of gold

* Vide Nash, Vol. II., page 109.

coins found in one of the urns amounted to about six pounds in weight: that such urn would hold about two quarts: that there were about three thousand silver coins in the other urn or jug, which jug would hold about a gallon: that the goat's head was found four or five yards from the urns, about four feet deep, in a cavity made in the quarry, which cavity was of the shape of a bason at the bottom: that he was offered seven hundred pounds for the coins, which he refused: that he considered they were altogether worth about one thousand pounds, but could not tell the total amount received for them, they having been sold in parcels at various times.

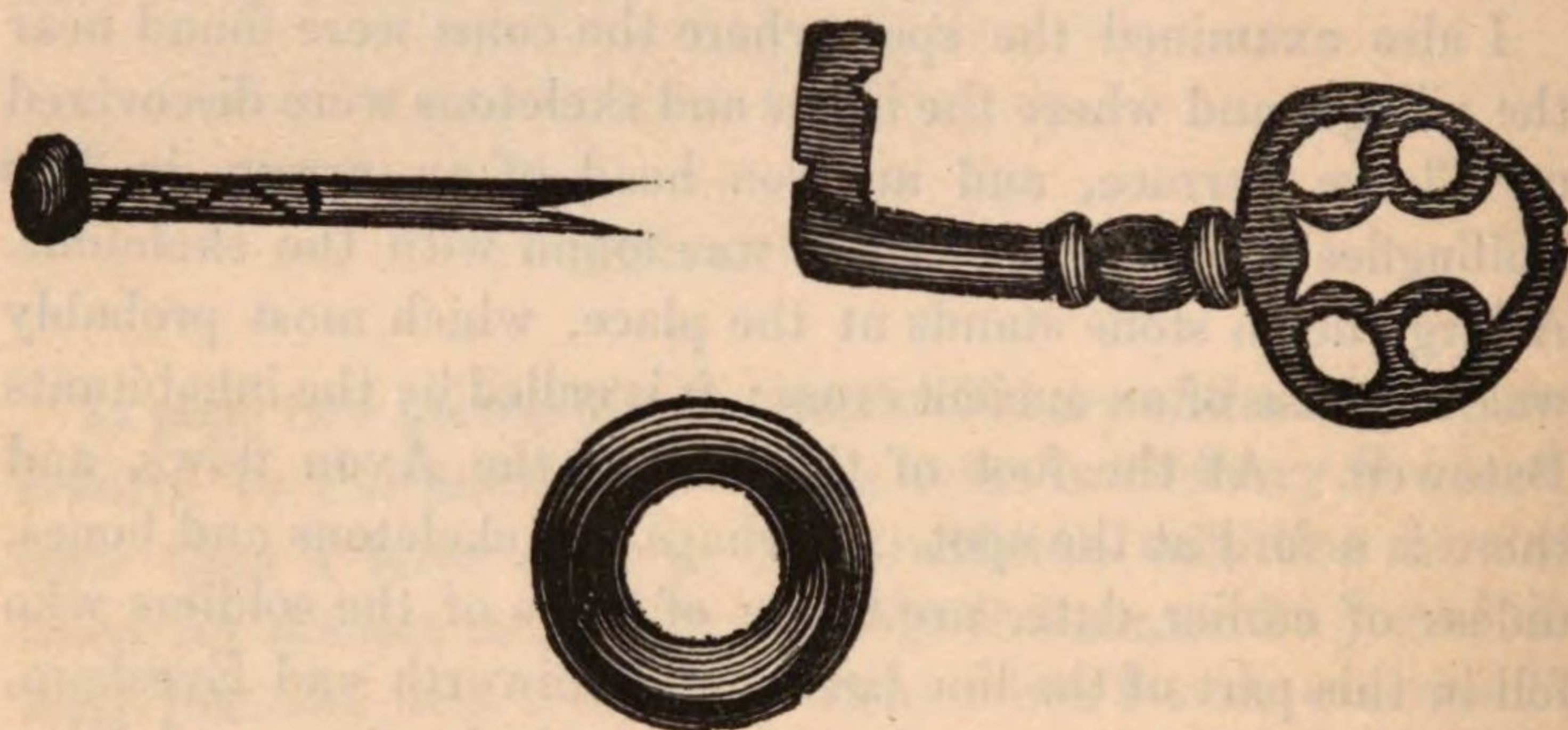
I also examined the spot where the coins were found near the village, and where the bones and skeletons were discovered on Cleeve Terrace, and an iron head of an arrow, in Mrs. Stillingfleet's possession, which was found with the skeletons. A large hewn stone stands at the place, which most probably was the base of an ancient cross; it is called by the inhabitants Batowen. At the foot of the terrace the Avon flows, and there is a ford at the spot. Perhaps the skeletons and bones, unless of earlier date, are those of some of the soldiers who fell in this part of the line between Kenilworth and Evesham, in the battles between the Barons and the forces of King Henry the Third.

KEMERTON CAMP.

Since I wrote the account of the above camp, in page 30, &c., I understand a large stone stands there called Bambury, which probably is a corruption of Ambury. The Rev. W. L. Bowles states in his *Hermes Britannicus*, that consecrated stones were thus denominated, and refers to an ancient Greek coin, on which there is the representation of two stones and the sacred fire, and beneath that emblem the inscription "Ambrosie Petre," in Greek characters. I am also informed that there is a round hill called Ambury in Stourbridge.

WORCESTER.

As the brass key, double pointed pin, and glass bead, part of the Castle Hill relics, referred to in page 10, have an antique appearance, I have subjoined sketches of them of their actual size ; but did not give them in Plate II., not knowing their date.



CHURCH HONEYBOURNE, OR HONIBORNE.

There is a road called the Quinton (or Quintan*) way in this parish, near Podon, and not far from Selenslode and Hollowe Breche, as appears by Terriers in the Registry of the Consistory Court of Worcester, dated in the years 1585 and 1715. This way is probably a branch of the Roman road, called Ryknild Street, before referred to in p. 27, supposed to have passed from Bidford, in Warwickshire, through South Littleton, somewhat to the east of Evesham, by Hinton, near Sedgberrow, Ashton-under-Hill, Beckford, Ashchurch, and Tewkesbury; and it is said to have gone from Bidford to Alcester. Between Bidford and Church Honeybourne it must have passed through Cleeve Prior. Eckington also lies in this line. The discovery of Roman relics at these two latter places, as before described, strongly verifies the fact of this Roman road having passed in the above direction.

* As to the meaning of the word Quintan see page 53 thereon.

SUBSCRIBERS.

The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Worcester.

A.

	COPIES.
Addison, William, Esq., Malvern	2
Aldham, Rev. Harcourt, Stoke Prior	1
Allies, George, Esq.....	1
Allies, Robert, Esq.....	1
Allies, Miss Amelia Ann	2
Allies, Mr. Frederic	1
Amphlett, John, Esq., Tapenhall	1
Austin, Mr. William, Bromsgrove	1

B.

Barr, Martin, Esq.	1
Barr, George, Esq.	1
Barr, Charles, Esq., Yorkshire	1
Bennett, Mr. James, Tewkesbury	1
Bentley, Mr. George	1
Berkeley, Robert, Esq., Spetchley	1
Brampton, John, Esq.	1
Brown, Rev. Wm., Bredicot	1
Burlingham, Mr. Samuel	1

C.

Cameron, Rev. Donald	1
Cameron, Archibald, Esq.	1
Campbell, Col.	1
Cartwright, Thomas, Esq., Bewdley	1
Chamberlain, Humphrey, Esq.	1
Chamberlain, Mr. Walter	1
Chesshyre, Rev. William John	1
Clifton, Henry, Esq.	2
Clifton, John, Esq.	1
Cocks, Rev. Henry Somers, Leigh	1
Cole, Mr. Solomon	1
Colville, James, Esq., M.A.	1
Cooper, T. Beale, M.D., Bengeworth	1
Corles, William, Esq.	1
Corles, Edward, Esq.	1
Cowell, Mr. William	1
Cresswell, Charles, Esq.	1

D.

COPIES.

Davies, Mrs. D. G.	1
Davies, Rev. John	1
Dent, William, Esq.	6
Dicks, Mr. George	1
Dineley, Rev. George	1
Durieux, Mr. John	1

E.

Eaton, Mr. Daniel	1
Eginton, Harvey, Esq.	1
Evans, Richard, Esq.	1
Evans, Mr. John	1

F.

Foley, Henry, Esq.	1
Foxton, Rev. George Lardner	1
France, Thomas, Esq.	1
Frances, Richard, Esq., Droitwich	1

G.

Gillam, Mr. Edward	1
Gosling, Mr. F. N.	1
Gutch, John Mathew, Esq.	1

H.

Hastings, Charles, M.D.	1
Helm, Charles Augustus, Esq.	1
Hewson, Rev. Frank	1
Hill, Mr. Thomas Rowley	1
Hill, John, Esq.	1
Hill, Rev. William	1
Hobbs, Mr. William	1
Hodson, Rev. George ...	1
Holden, Rev. W. Rose	1
Holden, Rev. William.....	1
Hood, Mr. John	1
Hooper, Francis, Esq.	1
Hopton, Rev. Wm., Kemerton Court	1
Horniblow, Mr. W. T., Ripple	1
Horniblow, Mr. James, Tewkesbury ...	1
Hughes, Thomas, Esq.	1
Hughes, W. S. P., Esq.	1
Hyde, John Brooke, Esq.	1
Hyde, Thomas, Esq.	1

I.

Ingram, Rev. Edward Winnington	1
Ingram, Rev. John Richard, Droitwich	1

Isaac, Elias, Esq.	1
Isaac, John Whitmore, Esq.	1
J.	
Johnstone, Lockhart, Esq.	1
L.	
Laslett, William, Esq.	1
Lechmere, Sir Anthony, Bart.	1
Lechmere, Edmund Hungerford, Esq.	1
Lechmere, Rev. Anthony Berwick, Hanley Castle	1
Lees, Edwin, Esq., F.L.S., Forthampton	1
Lewis, Mr. William	1
Lilly, John, Esq.	1
Lingham, Mrs., Merriman's Hill	1
Lingham, Mr. William Dolphin	1
Little, Thomas Henry, Esq., St. John's ...	1
Lloyd, Omwell J., Esq.	1
Loxley, Mr. Francis	1
M.	
Malden, Jonas, M.D.	1
Marmont, Miss, Oakfields	1
Maund, Mr. Benjamin, F.L.S., Bromsgrove	1
Morton, Mrs., Kent's Green	1
Morris, Edward, Esq., Hereford	1
N.	
Nash, James, M.D.	2
Newman, Thomas, Esq.	1
O.	
Osborne, George Yarnold, Esq.	1
P.	
Parker, John, Esq.	1
Peake, Hugh B., Esq.	1
Peake, Mrs.	1
Pearson, Rev. Thomas, Witley	1
Pearson, Rev. John, Suckley	1
Pearson, Captain, Hawford	2
Peell, Mr. George	1
Perrins, Mr. William	1
Perrott, Miss	1
Pidcock, Charles, Esq.	1
Powell, Captain, Lark Hill	1
Powell, Mr. William	1
Powell, Mr. Henry	1
Price, Rev. Thomas, Shelsley	1
R.	
Rowe, Mr. Henry	1
Rudd, Rev. Edward Miles, Kempsey	1

S.	COPIES.
St. John, Rev. George.....	1
St. John, Fleming, Esq.	1
Sanders, Mr. James, Bromsgrove.....	1
Sarjeant, Rev. Robert	1
Sheppard, J. P. Esq.	1
Sidebottom, Charles, Esq.	3
Smith, Joseph, Esq., Kempsey	1
Spriggs, Mrs.	1
Stephenson, Thomas, Esq.	1
Stevenson, Mr. J. D.	1
Stillingfleet, Rev. Robert Digby, Cleeve Prior	1
Stokes, Allen, Esq., Harvington	1
Stone, Mr. John	1
Streeten, Robert J. N., M.D.	1
Strickland, H. E., Esq., Cracomb House	1
Sylvester, Mr. G. J.	1
T.	
Thomas, Mrs., White Ladies	1
Timings, Mr. William, Holy Cross, Clent	1
Turley, E. A., Esq.	1
Tymbs, Harvey Berrow, Esq.	2
Tymbs, John, Esq.	1
V.	
Varden, Richard, Esq.	1
W.	
Walcott, John Esq.	1
Walker, George J. A., Esq., Norton	1
Walker, John, Esq., Whittington	1
Wall, William, Esq.	1
Walsh, J. H., Esq.	1
Webb, Mr. James	1
Weston, Rev. William Henry	1
Whitten, Mr. Edward, Northampton	1
Wight, Philip, Esq., Tedstone Court	1
Wilks, Mr. Thomas.....	1
Williams, John Esq., Pitmaston	1
Williams, Francis, Esq.	1
Williams, Miss, Brook House, Powick	1
Workman, Benjamin, Esq., Evesham	1
Y.	
Yapp, Mr. Richard	1
Yarnold, Mrs.	1
Yates, Mr. James, London	1
Z.	
Zachary, Daniel, Esq., Areley Kings	1

330

13.30

330

Allies, Jabez

On the ancient British, Roman and Saxon Antiquities of Worcestershire

London 1840

Brit. 6 I

urn:nbn:de:bvb:12-bsb10278396-4